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Implementation of Security Council resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014)

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. This sixth report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 17 of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014) and paragraph 10 of Security Council resolution 2165 (2014), in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to report, every 30 days, on the implementation of the resolutions by all parties to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic.

2. The report covers the period from 22 July to 18 August 2014. The information contained in the report is based on the data available to the United Nations actors on the ground and reports from open sources and sources of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic.

II. Major developments

A. Political/military

3. Conflict and high levels of violence continued across the Syrian Arab Republic during the reporting period, particularly in the governorates of Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Deir ez-Zor, Rif Dimashq, Damascus, Hasakeh, Idlib, Dar`a and Raqqa. Indiscriminate aerial bombings by Government forces and indiscriminate shelling and attacks by armed opposition, extremist and designated terrorist groups[1] continued to result in death, injury and displacement. According to data collected by human rights organizations from various sources, July 2014 was the deadliest month in the Syrian Arab Republic since the start of the conflict in March 2011, with over 1,000 civilian deaths and injuries.

4. Air strikes and indiscriminate barrel bomb attacks by Government forces continued on opposition-held areas, resulting in the deaths of hundreds of civilians. In its report released on 30 July, "Barrage of Barrel Bombs", Human Rights Watch

[1] On 30 May 2013, Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the Nusra Front were designated as terrorist groups by the Security Council under resolution 1267 (1999). These two groups operate in the Syrian Arab Republic.

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satellite imagery analysis shows over 650 new major impact strikes, consistent with barrel bomb impacts, in Aleppo residential neighbourhoods held by armed opposition groups, between 22 February and 14 July 2014. The heaviest concentration of bombs was in the residential districts of Masaken, Hanano, Bostan Pasha, Sheikh Kheder, Trab al-Hellok, Aynat Tal, Rasafeh and Sheikh Said, where civilians who do not have the means to leave, still reside. Reports were also received that over 121 barrel bombs were dropped between 22 July and 13 August, resulting in the deaths of 185 civilians. Dar'a and Hama governorates have been also severely affected by barrel bombs. In Dar'a, for example, over 30 barrel bombs were reportedly dropped on Da'el city between 22 and 31 July, killing 10 civilians, including 5 children, while in Hama, barrel bombs hit multiple areas in northern and western rural areas, including one incident in Aqareb village on 4 August, which resulted in at least five civilians killed.

5. Government-controlled cities and areas continued to be subject to indiscriminate mortar attacks, shelling and vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices by armed opposition groups and extremist groups, notably in Aleppo, Homs and Damascus governorates. In Aleppo city, a mortar attack in a Government-held area on 25 July killed 15 civilians, including 3 women and 6 children. In Homs, a suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive device was detonated on 27 July in the Government-controlled predominantly Alawite neighbourhood of Al Arman, killing 11 civilians. In Damascus, around 225 mortars and missiles targeted the capital between 3 and 7 August, killing more than 17 people and injuring at least 100 people, including children.

6. Fighting and conflict continue to displace people, particularly in areas of Hama, Hasakeh and Deir ez-Zor governorates. In Hama, fighting between Government forces and armed opposition groups in southern and western rural areas led to approximately 22,500 people fleeing to Hama city. In Hasakeh, around 10,000 people were displaced from the Hasakeh city to Qamishli city in anticipation of further ISIL offensives. Meanwhile, in Deir ez-Zor, nearly 100,000 people, mostly women, children and elderly, fled to Baqaan, Hujayn, Al Bahr and Al Shafa from the advances of ISIL.

7. All parties to the conflict continued to target vital services resulting in interruptions to the supply of safe drinking water and electricity. In Aleppo city, damage caused to the main water pumping station, Suleiman al-Halabi, by armed opposition groups on 2 June continues to result in water shortages for more than 700,000 people. While repairs to the pumping station in Aleppo have continued since 19 July, the water station pumping capacity remains low due to electricity cuts and lack of fuel for generators. Reports were received last week that the Islamic Front cut the water supply multiple times from the main Aleppo pumping station to the Tishreen collective tank, supplying an internally displaced person (IDP) area. Reduced availability of vital services, such as water and electricity, also continued to be reported in various contested areas in Dar'a, Idlib, Hama, Deir ez-Zor and Rif Dimashq governorates, also as a result of insufficient availability of fuel.

8. ISIL continues to increase its influence in the Syrian Arab Republic, predominantly along the main supply lines in rural central Homs, Hama, Rif Dimashq, southern Hasakeh and western Aleppo. It also continues to fight for the control of border crossings and natural resources. During the reporting period, it made advances in Raqqa, Hasakeh, and Aleppo governorates following clashes with

Government forces. In Raqqa, it took over two of the three remaining government-controlled military bases, with reports that its forces had killed at least 85 Syrian soldiers, beheading some. In Hasakeh, ISIL took over a large Government military base and established presence in the Gweiran neighbourhood of Hasakeh city following an offensive on Government and Kurdish-controlled areas near Tal Tamr and Yaroubiyeh, to link and complement its offensive on Kurdish areas in Iraq. In Aleppo governorate, on 29 and 30 July, heavy fighting broke out west of Ain al-Arab (Kobanî), between ISIL and Kurdish elements. Elsewhere, ISIL seized control of Al Ta'anch and Al Mukbileh towns around the Sheikh Najjar industrial area. Since 13 August, ISIL has gained control of strategic villages north-east of Aleppo towards Marʿ and Azaz districts in an attempt to take control of the Bab al-Salam crossing point on the Syrian-Turkish border.

9. Recent attacks by ISIL on the Sinjar district of Ninewa governorate in Iraq displaced approximately 55,000 Yazidi people to Hasakeh governorate between 2 and 11 August. The majority of those who entered the Syrian Arab Republic have since returned to Iraq, but around 15,000 people are living in the Nawrouz IDP camp, while hundreds more are in nearby villages and towns. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and partners in Qamishli are rapidly scaling up their response, including airlifting additional relief materials to Hasakeh governorate. They are also transporting the most vulnerable to the Nawrouz camp or to/from various crossing points with Iraq.

10. In Idlib governorate, the Nusra Front took full control of the strip of the Turkish-Syrian border from the edge of Ladhiqiyah to Bab al-Hawa, including the border crossing of Darkosh/Sanli, following an offensive on the Free Syrian Army in western Idlib. The Nusra Front is now in control of the smuggling trade on the border, a key source of income for armed opposition groups.

11. On 14 August, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2170 (2014), which condemns the recruitment by ISIL, the Nusra Front and all other entities associated with Al-Qaida of foreign terrorist fighters; demands that all foreign terrorist fighters associated with ISIL and other terrorist groups withdraw immediately; and expresses its readiness to consider listing those recruiting for or participating in the activities of ISIL, the Nusra Front and entities associated with Al-Qaida under the Al-Qaida sanctions regime, including through financing or facilitating, for ISIL or the Nusra Front, of travel of foreign terrorist fighters.

12. While the United Nations does not have the means to independently verify their number and origins, non-Syrian fighters increasingly are participating in the fighting in the Syrian Arab Republic, supporting all sides of the conflict, including designated terrorist groups. During the reporting period, Australia issued arrest warrants for two citizens accused of fighting for ISIL. On 13 August, France stated that nearly 900 French citizens have gone to Middle East battlegrounds either in the Syrian Arab Republic or in Iraq, and that some had joined ISIL. Meanwhile, the ISIL communication and recruitment campaigns continue to promote the "Islamic Caliphate" through professionally made audio and visual material in different languages. The territory encompassing the ISIL-declared Islamic Caliphate is now estimated to have a population of up to 9 million people.

13. The Syrian conflict spilled over into Lebanon on 2 August with heavy clashes in the border town of Arsal between Lebanese authorities and extremist groups reportedly from Qalamoun, including elements from the Nusra Front and ISIL. On

7 August, the Lebanese Army announced that the Lebanese Armed Forces had regained control of the town which was declared free of foreign fighters. Approximately 1,086 Syrians returned from Arsal to the Syrian Arab Republic as a result.

B. Human rights

14. Grave violations of child rights continued to occur during the reporting period, including the killing and maiming of children, child recruitment and the arbitrary detention and abduction of children. Around 130 of the 153 students abducted by ISIL on 29 May while travelling to Ain al-Arab, Aleppo, continue to be held by the group. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) received reports on 22 July that two of the students escaped; the students reported witnessing beatings and electric shock of other students as a means to obtain information about political activists in Ain al-Arab (Kobani) and Aleppo. Some of the children from the group are also reportedly detained with adults in substandard conditions.

15. Armed opposition groups in the Syrian Arab Republic continue to recruit children, with over 120 cases of the recruitment and use of children documented in 2014, including girls and some as young as 8. Of these, more than half of the cases have been attributed to the Free Syrian Army. While reports prior to 2014 indicated that children associated with armed groups were predominantly engaged in support functions, there has been a confirmed trend of increased use of children in combat roles this year. On 31 July, the National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces (Syrian Coalition) sent a letter to the Security Council, attaching a communiqué adopted jointly by the Syrian Coalition and the Supreme Military Council of the Free Syrian Army to end and prevent the recruitment and use of children. They pledged, inter alia, to ensure that command orders are issued to Free Syrian Army units to prohibit the recruitment of children and end the military use of schools and hospitals for military purposes.

16. Violations against women also continued during the reporting period. On 17 July, a woman was reportedly stoned to death by approximately 30 members of ISIL, after being found guilty of adultery by an ISIL sharia court in the city of Al Tabaqa, in Raqqa governorate. During the last week of July, ISIL distributed leaflets listing restrictions on women's dress codes in Deir ez-Zor and Raqqa, noting that violations would entail severe punishment. Meanwhile, reports were also received that other armed opposition groups are imitating ISIL in their treatment of civilians in areas under their control. For example, in Douma, Rif Dimashq, there have been reports of stoning for adultery and homosexuality by armed opposition groups.

17. On 25 July, ISIL reportedly captured and executed over 40 Government soldiers in Raqqa. Internet-based footage depicted gruesome images of dead army soldiers, some of whom appeared to have been decapitated, their heads placed on sticks or metal poles in the centre of Raqqa city. On 26 July, a media activist was executed and his body tied to a pole on public display by the Nusra Front and ISIL. The victim was accused by ISIL and the Nusra Front of being part of Al-Kafan al-Abyad, a Kurdish militant group based in Abu Kamal. In addition, ISIL continues to hold approximately 250 civilians, including approximately 160 migrant workers, who were abducted some six months ago while returning to Ain al-Arab (Kobani)

from Iraq. In Deir ez-Zor, more than 700 members of the Arab Al-Sheitaat tribe, whom ISIL accused of apostasy, have reportedly been killed since early August by militants of ISIL.

18. On the status of prisoners and detainees from the Aleppo Central Prison, OHCHR received new information that most detainees were transferred to Al-Wahda school in Aleppo and to the Adra Central Prison in Rif Dimashq. Their conditions of detention are believed to be dire, including, reports of tuberculosis cases and of children detained with adults at Al-Wahda school. In response to a note verbale from OHCHR dated 25 June, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic replied that judicial authorities have resumed trials following the transfer of inmates from the prison to the new facilities and that a judicial committee has been reviewing their status to implement amnesty decrees. The Government also reported the release of 363 prisoners from the Aleppo Central Prison on 28 July, and that bodies still buried inside the Aleppo Central Prison grounds would be returned to the families when the area is secure. OHCHR recently concluded that violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, some of which may amount to war crimes, were committed by Syrian Government forces, as well as by armed opposition groups on the former inmates of the Aleppo Central Prison.[2]

19. Regarding the status of the 100 male evacuees from the Old City of Homs in February who were transferred from Al-Andalus school, OHCHR received reports that approximately 15 defectors and deserters were transferred back to their military units; 35 draft evaders were processed for military service; and 11 civilians and 3 defectors or deserters were released. The rest remain imprisoned, including over 45 detainees, who are in Sidnaya Central Prison awaiting prosecution in anti-terrorism courts. On 30 July, UNHCR visited the Al-Andalus facility and observed 29 persons lacking documentation and 3 evacuated families who had chosen to stay in Al-Andalus in the absence of a better option. The facility is again being used as a collective shelter.

20. The Government stated that 828 individuals were pardoned between 22 and 28 July, after surrendering their weapons and pledging not to participate in the hostilities. The Government did not specify whether any of the pardoned individuals had been in their custody.

21. Lack of accountability continues to lead to impunity for perpetrators of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law in the Syrian Arab Republic. Members of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, OHCHR and United Nations human rights monitors continue to be denied access to the Syrian Arab Republic.

C. Humanitarian access

22. Approximately 10.8 million people continue to be in need of urgent humanitarian assistance within the Syrian Arab Republic, including more than 6.4 million people who are internally displaced. Around 4.7 million people reside in

[2] OHCHR paper "Surrounded by Death": Former Inmates of Aleppo Central Prison" issued on 12 August 2014 details the "indescribable suffering" that detainees and prisoners at Aleppo Central Prison endured prior to and during a year-long siege by several armed opposition groups. http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/SY/AleppoCentralPrison.pdf.

areas categorized as hard-to-reach, including at least 241,000 people who remain besieged by either Government or opposition forces.

23. For the first time in these monthly reports to the Security Council I can report some improvement in access across borders and across lines. Access across borders following the adoption of resolution 2165 (2014) has resulted in broader reach to areas in Aleppo, Dar`a, Rif Dimashq, Idlib and Ladhiqiyah governorates. There have also been new openings in access across conflict lines in Aleppo (eastern rural), Dar`a (Dar`a city opposition-held neighbourhoods) and Rif Dimashq governorates. Many of these locations had not received assistance since the onset of the conflict. Of particular note is that medical supplies, including surgical items, reached a number of opposition-held areas this month.

24. Overall, assistance reached 48 (approximately 17 per cent) of the 287 locations identified as besieged or hard-to-reach. Food assistance by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) reached 469,510 people in 23 hard-to-reach areas compared to 95,838 people in 14 hard-to-reach locations during the previous reporting period. UNHCR, UNRWA and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) delivered non-food items to 81,151 people in 23 hard-to-reach areas compared to 62,090 people in 29 hard-to-reach locations during the previous reporting period.

25. Following the adoption of resolution 2165 (2014) on 14 July, the United Nations established the monitoring mechanism foreseen in paragraph 3 of the resolution. The mechanism became operational on 23 July in Turkey and on 2 August in Jordan, following the deployment and training of advanced teams of United Nations monitors. Deployment of monitoring teams to Iraq remains pending owing to ongoing fighting and insecurity in the north-western part of the country.

26. During the reporting period, the United Nations and its partners sent five shipments — four from Turkey and one from Jordan — to the Syrian Arab Republic under the terms of resolution 2165 (2014), using two border crossings, Bab al-Salam and Ramtha. This included food assistance for over 67,000 people; non-food items for almost 70,000 people; water and sanitation supplies for around 75,000 people; and medical supplies for almost 110,000 people, including surgical supplies for 200 people, as well as other items to people in Aleppo, Idlib, Ladhiqiyah and Dar`a governorates. United Nations teams monitored the loading of the shipments and accompanied the loaded vehicles to the border crossing. These shipments were possible because of the full cooperation of the Governments of Turkey and Jordan.

27. In line with Security Council resolution 2165 (2014), the United Nations notified the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in advance of each shipment, including details about content, destination district and number of beneficiaries. In addition, for each shipment, the United Nations monitoring mechanism sent a notification to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic confirming the humanitarian nature of the shipment in accordance with resolution 2165 (2014).

28. Owing to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Hasakeh governorate and in view of the situation in neighbouring Iraq, relief items continue to be urgently needed through the Nusaybin/Qamishli border crossing, which is the most direct route to the governorate. UNHCR and WFP are organizing airlifts from Damascus into Hasakeh governorate to transport food and non-food items for 50,000 people in

different parts of the governorate, and some of these supplies will be reserved for the response to the Iraq crisis. The World Health Organization (WHO) was also able to deliver intravenous fluids for the treatment of up to 3,400 people.

29. Designated terrorist groups continued to severely constrain access to the eastern governorates of the Syrian Arab Republic. As a result, almost 390,000 people could not be reached with planned food assistance in Raqqa, Deir ez-Zor and Hasakeh during the reporting period. On 6 August, an 18-truck convoy of WFP food en route from Deir ez-Zor to Raqqa came under attack from an unknown group. Two truck drivers were killed and two were injured, and the contents of four trucks were damaged or destroyed. The remaining 14 trucks, carrying assistance for 59,445 people, proceeded to Raqqa. The assistance is now being distributed. Armed opposition groups, including the Islamic Front and ISIL, continued to block humanitarian access to each other's areas of control. In Aleppo and northern Hasakeh, ISIL continued to block humanitarian access, in particular to Kurdish areas and to villages in Deir ez-Zor that oppose its rule.

30. Despite the difficult operating environment, United Nations agencies and partners continued their efforts to deliver assistance to those in need. In July, WFP dispatched food for 3.66 million people across 13 Syrian governorates, or 86 per cent of the planned target of 4.25 million, representing a 7 per cent increase from the 3.42 million (81 per cent of the target) reached in June. UNICEF deliveries of chlorine benefitted 16.5 million people with clean water. WHO distributed medicines and supplies for approximately 580,000 medical treatments. Between 17 July and 4 August, UNHCR dispatched relief items benefitting more than 181,600 people in nine governorates.

Besieged areas

31. Approximately 241,000 people remain besieged, 196,000 in areas besieged by Government forces in Madamiyet Elsham, eastern Ghouta, Darayya and Yarmouk, and 45,000 in areas besieged by opposition forces in Nubul and Zahra.

32. During the reporting period, assistance, including medical assistance, reached two besieged communities: Yarmouk and Madamiyet Elsham. Food was distributed to 6,060 people (2.5 per cent of people in besieged areas) and non-food items to 4,520 people (1.8 per cent); medicines were distributed to 25,200 (10.5 per cent).

33. Eastern Ghouta: 150,000 people remain besieged in eastern Ghouta. A convoy is planned for 18 to 21 August, targeting 25,000 people. Eastern Ghouta (Douma) was last reached with humanitarian assistance on 24 May 2014.

34. Madamiyet Elsham: 24,000 people, including approximately 9,000 children, face a shortage of basic needs and movement constraints. On 28 July, WHO and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) delivered 5 metric tons of medical assistance, sufficient for two months, to the Madamiyet health centre to support 24,000 people in need, including antibiotics, chronic disease medicines and multivitamins for children. Although Madamiyet was last reached during the period 14 to 21 July, this was the first time medical supplies, with the exception of vaccines, reached the town since October 2012.

35. Darayya: Approximately 4,000 people remain besieged in Darayya, Rif Dimashq, with no access to assistance during the reporting period. Darayya was last assisted in October 2012.

36. Yarmouk: 18,000 people remain besieged in Yarmouk. UNRWA accessed Yarmouk from 22 July to 9 August, reaching 6,060 people with food parcels, 4,520 people with non-food items and 1,200 people with health supplies or medicine. For the first time since December 2012, the Syrian authorities authorized the distribution of medical supplies, including antibiotics and medicines for non-communicable diseases. Standard infant and early childhood vaccines are also currently permitted. UNRWA has not reached Yarmouk since 9 August because of clashes in the camp.

37. Nubul and Zahra: 45,000 people remain besieged by opposition forces in Nubul and Zahra. Nubul and Zahra were hit during the reporting period with an improvised rocket fitted with a gas canister, known as a "hell canon", and other rockets causing an unspecified number of casualties. No humanitarian assistance has reached the two villages since 8 May.

Free passage of medical supplies, personnel and equipment

38. There has been some improvement in delivery of medical items to opposition-held areas following the adoption of resolution 2165 (2014), including to the besieged areas of Madamiyet ElSham and Yarmouk and to eastern Aleppo city.

39. WHO delivered medicines and medical equipment to hard-to-reach areas in Raqqa, Aleppo, Rif Dimashq and Hasakeh governorates. WHO and partners distributed medicines and supplies for approximately 580,000 medical treatments,[3] including intravenous fluids to treat 3,333 people in Raqqa city; 10 metric tons of surgical supplies to hospitals in eastern Aleppo city and medicines for chronic disease for 22,300 people; medicines to 24,000 people for two months in Madamiyet ElSham; and intravenous fluids treatments in Hasakeh for 3,400 people.

40. Following the 2013 outbreak of polio in the Syrian Arab Republic, seven national immunization campaigns were conducted from December 2013 to June 2014, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, UNICEF, WHO and SARC. The June polio vaccination round reached 2.7 million children in all 14 governorates with four additional campaigns planned before the end of the year.

41. Final figures from the 15-26 June measles campaign show that 766,305 children were reached. There are 389 confirmed cases of measles to date. Meanwhile, the incidence of acute diarrhoea continues to increase in the Syrian Arab Republic, with 5,535 cases reported from 13 to 19 July 2014. The highest number of cases was reported in Deir ez-Zor (1,522), Damascus (798), Rif Dimashq (528), Ladhiqiyah (496) and Aleppo (465).

42. Attacks on medical facilities and personnel continued over the reporting period. During July, Physicians for Human Rights documented 11 attacks on 9 separate medical facilities. Seven were in Aleppo governorate, two in Rif Dimashq, one in Deir ez-Zor and one in Idlib. Seven were attacks by barrel bombs (all in Aleppo), two by rockets, one by mortar fire and one by car bomb. Six of the 11 medical facilities affected had previously been attacked. The deaths of 13 medical personnel were also documented, of which 6 were reportedly targeted killings. Eleven were killed by Government forces and two were killed by non-State

[3] One standard treatment course (for example, a course of antibiotics for eight days) is considered as treatment for one person. Treatment courses are determined for each distribution of medicine based on international WHO standards.

armed groups. Physicians for Human Rights report that nine personnel died from shelling or bombing, two from torture and two were shot.

Administrative procedures

43. The implementation of the truck-sealing procedures intended to facilitate and speed up passage at checkpoints continued to slow the delivery of humanitarian assistance. In particular, delays were noted in the approval of weekly loading plans. The movement of supplies to hard-to-reach areas continued to be negotiated on a case-by-case basis through meetings of the Joint Committee, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Social Affairs and security personnel centrally. This measure also continued to be applicable for authorization for hard-to-reach areas from United Nations hubs at the governorate level, which previously did not require authorization at the central/national levels. In Aleppo, Hama, Homs and Idlib, the governors continued to implement the new directive and convoys were no longer authorized at the hub level. As a result, there have been no convoys to hard-to-reach areas in these governorates since June. WHO continued to receive some exemptions with respect to medicines, vaccines and some medical equipment.

44. As at 11 August, 79 visas or visa renewal requests remained pending: 27 within the 15 working day limit and 52 exceeding the 15 working day limit. During the reporting period, the number of pending visas for international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) remained the same with 17 requests still pending.

45. During the reporting period, there was no change in the number of national NGOs authorized to partner with United Nations agencies as two inactive NGOs were removed from the list of authorized NGOs and two new NGOs were added in Damascus and Homs governorates. There are 85 national NGOs operating through 141 branches throughout the Syrian Arab Republic.

46. International NGOs continue to be unable to conduct independent (or joint) needs assessments; most cannot open sub-offices; and they are not authorized to partner with national NGOs or participate in inter-agency cross-line convoys or United Nations field missions.

Safety and security of staff and premises

47. Humanitarian assistance was delivered in the Syrian Arab Republic at great personal risk to staff in view of the intensification of the conflict, shifting front lines, bombings and the growth of designated terrorist groups.

48. On 26 July, two car bombs exploded in Atmeh and Azaz, in Aleppo, killing approximately 20 people, including one Médecins sans frontières staff member, and injuring 80.

49. On 22 July, the refugee reception area of the UNHCR Damascus office was hit by shrapnel as a result of nearby fighting. In Aleppo, an UNRWA health centre in the Neirab camp was damaged when a helicopter crashed after being struck by a surface-to-air missile. Approximately 12 Palestine refugees were killed and dozens were injured. The UNRWA distribution area in Yarmouk was affected by regular clashes throughout the reporting period, with gunfire striking the staging and distribution areas on several occasions.

50. Twenty-eight United Nations national staff members continue to be detained or missing (27 from UNRWA are detained or presumed missing and 1 from the United Nations Development Programme is detained). One SARC volunteer was killed in Raqqa on 26 July. The total number of humanitarian workers killed since March 2011 is 61. This includes 14 United Nations staff members, 38 SARC staff members and volunteers, 7 Palestine Red Crescent Society volunteers and staff members, and two international NGO staff members. Also, on 6 August, two truck drivers were killed when a WFP convoy came under attack en route from Deir ez-Zor to Raqqa.

Observations

51. Special Envoy de Mistura and Deputy Special Envoy Ramzy have a difficult task ahead of them. I have asked them to look for new openings to launch a political process and to fully involve countries in the region. The work of the Special Envoy will contribute to the implementation of the six points I presented on 20 June at the Asia Society that I believe could help address the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic in a principled and integrated fashion.

52. The prolongation of the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic has created fertile ground for radical armed groups, including those affiliated with Al-Qaida. Recent events in Iraq and the latest fighting in Arsal, Lebanon, vividly demonstrate the devastating impact of the Syrian conflict on the neighbouring countries and beyond. Countries in the region should find ways to build bridges that promote calm and reconciliation. Once again, I appeal to the Governments of the region and to all those with influence to stop the flow of arms, fighters and resources to all parties to the conflict and to prevent terrorist groups from acquiring financial resources and weapons.

53. Despite the adoption of presidential statement 2013/15, resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014), the protection situation has worsened. Reportedly, over 1,000 civilian deaths have occurred in August, the deadliest since the start of the war. Civilians live in appalling conditions. The conflict continues to be characterized by horrendous violations of international humanitarian law and human rights abuses, with a total disregard for humanity. Indiscriminate barrel bomb attacks by Government forces increased significantly and have destroyed entire neighbourhoods. Armed opposition and extremist groups continued indiscriminate attacks with mortars, shelling and car bombs. I remain deeply concerned about continued targeting of infrastructure for vital services for civilians, also a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law. I remind all parties to the conflict that the deliberate targeting of civilians is a war crime. There can be no impunity in this conflict.

54. The advance of ISIL into central Syrian Arab Republic and reported violations, including extrajudicial killings of civilians and beheadings of those captured, is of grave concern. The targeted killing of civilians and those who are *hors de combat* and are no longer engaged in hostilities is a violation of international humanitarian law. I am appalled by reported abuses against and restrictions imposed upon women in particular, by ISIL and other extremist groups. I condemn in the strongest possible terms the persecution of individuals who refuse the extremist ideology of ISIL and associated armed groups.

55. All parties to the conflict continue to deny access to humanitarian assistance in an unjustifiable manner. Hundreds of thousands of people live under siege. The

United Nations has established the monitoring mechanism to ensure the additional cross-border operations authorized under resolution 2165 (2014) are transparent. I note the new access openings through both cross-line and cross-border efforts this month following the passage of resolution 2165 (2014) and hope to report increased numbers of people assisted within the framework of resolutions 2139 (2014) and 2165 (2014). Access to those in most hard-to-reach areas — approximately 4.7 million people — must be regular, sustainable and unhindered. On the basis of recent positive developments in access, it is clear that where there is political will, there is a way to improve the situation. We must all redouble our efforts until all of the people in need in the Syrian Arab Republic are reached with the humanitarian assistance they need. But this is not a substitute for a political solution. A step change in access is still required that will make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who suffer in the Syrian Arab Republic.

56. I welcome the unanimous adoption of Security Council resolution 2170 (2014) on 15 August. This important display of consensus by the Council demonstrates the resolve with which the entire world has mobilized to address the rising threat of terrorism to the Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq and beyond. I call upon Member States to cooperate fully in order to ensure its implementation. At the same time, I also remind all concerned that we must not reduce the Syrian conflict to a problem of terrorism and foreign fighters. The best way to stop the spread of this new terror is by resolving the Syrian conflict politically. We must never lose sight of this.

Annex

1. Protection of civilians[a]

Examples of attacks on civilian facilities (schools, hospitals, camps, places of worship):

- As at 12 August, approximately 130 of the 153 students kidnapped by ISIL on 29 May while on the road to Ain al-Arab continue to be held. Reports indicate that two students escaped during the reporting period.
- On 11 August, at least four barrel bombs were reportedly dropped on the Bab al-Nairab neighbourhood of Old City of Aleppo, killing 12 civilians, including 5 children and a woman.
- On 3 August, more than 30 persons were killed and dozens injured after two air strikes targeted the Douma city centre, including a residential building and an adjacent public market.
- On 3 August, more than 15 civilians were killed and dozens were injured when a public market in the Kafr Batna city centre was shelled.
- On 30 July, two civilians were killed and 26 were injured in Homs city when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated in the Wadi al-Dahab neighbourhood.
- On 23 July, two shells hit a fresh food market, Souq al-Hal, in the Zablatani area of Damascus, killing three people and wounding six others.
- On 22 July, an improvised explosive device detonated in front of the Al-Qahira cinema in Hasakeh city, killing four people.

Large-scale impact of conflict on public services:

- The conflict continued to disrupt health-care services. Hospitals have been damaged in 12 of the country's 14 governorates. Out of 97 Ministry of Health hospitals:
  - 41 per cent are reported as fully functioning; 35 per cent are reported as partially functioning; and 24 per cent are reported as not functioning at all.
  - 71 per cent are reported as accessible to patients seeking treatment, while 29 per cent are not accessible owing to insecurity.
- As at 8 August, more than 700,000 people in Aleppo city reportedly face difficulties in regularly accessing safe water supplies following damage caused to water, sewage and electrical networks by an explosion on 2 June. Safe access to repair the pumping station has been secured and repairs are ongoing. Reports also indicate that the electricity supply in Aleppo city averages two hours per day.
- Owing to the impact of the conflict on public infrastructure and services, cases of acute diarrhoea continued to increase in the Syrian Arab Republic, with 5,535 cases reported from 13 to 19 July 2014. The governorates with the

[a] The United Nations has a distinct and regular mechanism of reporting on the six grave violations against children in armed conflict that has set verification standards and periodicity of reporting to identify trends.

highest number of reported cases were Deir ez-Zor (1,522), Damascus (798), Rif Dimashq (528), Ladhiqiyah (496) and Aleppo (465).

2. Safe and unhindered humanitarian access to people in need

Hard-to-reach areas:

- Latest estimates indicate that 4.7 million people are located in "hard-to-reach" areas and in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.
- Food assistance was provided to 469,510 people during the reporting period in hard-to-reach areas (436,450 by WFP and 33,060 by UNRWA).
- Non-food items were provided to 81,151 people in hard-to-reach areas (71,004 by UNHCR, 5,627 by UNICEF and 4,520 by UNRWA).
- WHO and UNRWA distributed medical assistance to over 55,000 people in hard-to-reach areas.
- UNICEF reached 60,039 people with water, sanitation and hygiene items and 23,100 children with educational support in hard-to-reach areas.

Inter-agency cross-line convoys

- One inter-agency convoy took place during the reporting period:
  - On 29 July, a joint United Nations and SARC convoy of 15 trucks reached Dar'a, where relief supplies will be distributed in the Yadudeh, Tal Shihab and Zayzun areas in the rural west of the governorate, targeting 10,000 people. This area has not been assisted since the beginning of the conflict.
- Six inter-agency convoys were requested but did not take place during the reporting period:
  - An inter-agency convoy to Adra al-Balad and Adra Ummaleya scheduled for 13 and 14 August could not take place; while the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic granted its approval, it could not guarantee security on the proposed route to be taken. The United Nations put the convoy on hold and will propose an alternative route.
  - An inter-agency convoy to Quadsayya, Rif Dimashq, on 12 August could not take place owing to lack of approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
  - On 6 August, the United Nations hub in Aleppo submitted a request to the Governor of Aleppo for an inter-agency convoy to deliver assistance to 5,000 families in the east of Aleppo. There has been no response. A reminder was sent on 12 August.
  - On 15 July, the United Nations hub in Homs submitted a request for a convoy to Houla, Homs governorate, targeting 11,100 families. The convoy was originally planned for 20 to 27 July and remains pending.
  - On 15 July, the United Nations hub in Homs submitted a request to the Governor of Hama for an inter-agency convoy to Sahel Gahab, targeting 6,000 families. The convoy was originally planned for 21 to 29 July and remains pending.

- On 15 June, the United Nations hub in Aleppo submitted a request to the Governor of Aleppo to resume implementation of the Aleppo convoy plan (approved on 22 May). The Governor resubmitted the plan to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but it remains pending.

Besieged areas

- 241,000 people remain besieged in total.
- During the reporting period, food assistance was distributed to 6,060 people, or 2.5 per cent of those besieged; non-food items were distributed to 4,520 people, or 1.8 per cent; and medical assistance was distributed to 25,200 people, or 10.5 per cent of people in besieged areas.
- UNRWA delivered food assistance to 6,060 people in Yarmouk camp, non-food items to 4,520 people and medical assistance to 1,200 people.
- WHO delivered medical assistance to 24,000 people in Madamiyet Elsham.

Cross-border assistance:

Pursuant to resolution 2165 (2014)

- During the reporting period, the United Nations and its partners sent five shipments — four from Turkey and one from Jordan — to the Syrian Arab Republic under the terms of resolution 2165 (2014) using two border crossings, Bab al-Salam and Ramtha. This included food assistance for over 67,000 people; non-food items for almost 70,000 people; water and sanitation supplies for around 75,000 people; and medical supplies for almost 110,000 people, including surgical supplies for 200 people, as well as other items to people in Aleppo, Idlib, Ladhiqiyah and Dar`a governorates.

From Turkey

- According to the Turkish Red Crescent, humanitarian actors have channelled around $23 million worth of humanitarian assistance on average monthly from Turkey into the Syrian Arab Republic through the zero-point delivery system administered by the Turkish Red Crescent. This monthly average does not include assistance delivered by commercial or other channels.
- UNHCR submitted two requests to import items from Turkey, which were approved.

From Jordan

- UNHCR has submitted 46 official requests to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic for importation of core relief items across the Jordanian border. All were approved.

From Lebanon

- The Masna and Arida border crossings between Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic remained open for the transport of relief items during the reporting period.

- UNHCR has submitted 16 requests to import core relief items, medicines and telecommunications and security equipment across the Lebanese border; 13 have been approved and 3 for telecommunications and security equipment are pending.

From Iraq

- UNHCR has submitted one request for the importation of items from Iraq, which was approved.

Safety of humanitarian workers

- On 6 August, two truck drivers, transporting WFP food assistance, were killed when a WFP convoy came under attack while en route from Deir ez-Zor to Raqqa.
- On 26 July, a SARC volunteer was killed in Raqqa.
- On 26 July, a Médecins Sans Frontières staff member was killed when two car bombs exploded in Atmeh and Azaz, Aleppo governorate. Approximately 20 people were killed and 80 people were injured.
- On 22 July, the refugee reception area at the UNHCR office in Damascus was hit by shrapnel. No injuries were reported. In Aleppo, an UNRWA health centre in the Neirab camp was damaged when a helicopter crashed after being struck by a surface-to-air missile. Approximately 12 Palestine refugees were killed and dozens were injured.
- The UNRWA distribution area in Yarmouk was affected by regular clashes throughout the reporting period, with gunfire striking the staging and distribution areas on several occasions.
- The number of humanitarian workers killed since March 2011 stands at 61, including 14 United Nations staff, 38 SARC staff and volunteers, 7 Palestine Red Crescent Society volunteers and staff, and 2 international non-governmental organization (NGO) staff.
- 28 United Nations national staff members continue to be detained or missing (27 from UNRWA are detained or missing and 1 from UNDP is detained).

Declaration of Commitment

- A total of 24 armed opposition groups have signed the Declaration of Commitment, affirming their core responsibilities under international humanitarian law and their commitment to facilitate action to meet the needs of civilians on the basis of need alone. Of the 24 signatories, one group signed during the reporting period:

  o Suqur al-Ghab: signed on 6 August.

3. Safe passage of medical personnel and supplies

Attacks on medical facilities during the reporting period

- Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) documented 11 attacks on nine separate medical facilities in July. Seven attacks occurred in Aleppo governorate, two

in Rif Dimashq, one in Idlib and one in Deir ez-Zor. Seven attacks were by barrel bombs (all in Aleppo), two by missiles or rockets, one by mortar fire and one by car bomb.

- In total, PHR has documented 186 attacks on 148 separate medical facilities since the start of the conflict.
- PHR documented that 13 medical personnel were killed in July; 6 were reportedly targeted killings. Eleven personnel were killed by Government forces and two by armed-opposition groups. Nine personnel died from shelling or bombing, two from torture and two were shot. Overall, PHR has recorded the deaths of 541 medical personnel since the start of the conflict.

Removal of medicines and medical supplies from convoys

- During the reporting period no medicines or medical supplies were reported removed from WHO shipments.
- There has been some improvement in delivery of medical items to opposition-held areas following the adoption of resolution 2165 (2014), including to the besieged areas of Madamyiet ElSham and Yarmouk and to eastern Aleppo city.

Polio vaccination campaign

- The June polio vaccination round reached 2.7 million children in all 14 governorates. Four additional polio vaccination campaigns are planned by the Ministry of Health, UNICEF, WHO and SARC before the end of the year. The next round is scheduled to take place from 31 August to 4 September, aiming to reach approximately 2.8 million children.

Measles vaccination campaign

- There are 389 confirmed measles cases in the Syrian Arab Republic to date, with most registered in Deir ez-Zor and Raqqa governorates. In addition, more than 2,800 cases of suspected measles were reported through the early warning system, double the number reported for all of 2013.
- Final results from the 15 to 26 June Ministry of Health-led measles vaccination campaign show that 766,305 children were reached across all 14 governorates. The campaign was supported by WHO and UNICEF.
- WHO and UNICEF are supporting the Ministry of Health to develop a national response plan for measles and other vaccine-preventable diseases.

4. Administrative hurdles

- On 9 June, the Ministry of Social Affairs communicated to governors that all convoys or missions to "hot spot areas"[b] required the approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the High Relief Committee and the National Security Office. Previously, the governors were delegated to coordinate and authorize

[b] The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic refers to "hot spots". Clarification was requested by the United Nations on 16 July for the definition and criteria of "hot spots" but has not been received. For the purpose of this report, these are referred to as hard-to-reach areas until clarified because of the difficulty in reaching these locations.

delivery of assistance within their respective governorates, including across lines of conflict. Delivery of assistance to cross-line locations continues to be hampered as a result of the directive.

- On 7 July, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs communicated a timeframe for submitting the weekly loading plans in accordance with the truck-sealing procedures rolled out for the movement of trucks for regular programmes: loading plans are to be submitted by United Nations agencies each Monday during working hours. The Government has committed to clear the weekly loading plans on Thursday for distributions to start on Saturdays.

- An exemption was obtained with respect to the distribution of medicines, medical equipment and water, sanitation and hygiene items for regular programmes. The distribution of such items will be exempted from some of the new procedures rolled out by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in April and May. The distribution of medical aid for cross-line deliveries will be coordinated by the Ministry of Health on a case-by-case basis.

Clearance procedures for telecommunications equipment

- Government approvals to import and operate information and communications technology equipment remain a lengthy process. However, after receiving approval from Syriatel (the license issuer), UNHCR imported 70 VHF handheld radio devices, 34 laptops and two ProGres servers during the reporting period. The VSAT for Qamishli was approved and is pending customs clearance. On 10 August, UNHCR received import permission approval from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for CISCO telephony.

Empowered interlocutors

- *Government of the Syrian Arab Republic*: The joint United Nations and Government of the Syrian Arab Republic committee established following the adoption of resolution 2139 (2014) includes a security focal point. Regular meetings take place between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Humanitarian Coordinator on an almost daily basis.

- The opposition is still unable to designate empowered interlocutors. The fragmented nature of the opposition makes it difficult to clearly identify an interlocutor for armed opposition groups. Ad hoc local engagement is ongoing to negotiate access. Interlocutors vary depending on the localities where access is being negotiated.

Visas

- The revised visa policy established by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic on 4 March continued to be implemented. As at 11 August, a total of 79 United Nations visas or renewal requests remained pending, 27 within the 15-working-day limit and 52 exceeding the 15-working-day limit.

- As at 11 August, the number of pending visas for international NGOs remained the same, with 17 requests still pending.

Humanitarian hubs and presence

- UNHCR has moved into a larger office in Qamishli to accommodate additional staff and enhance humanitarian assistance operations in Hasakeh governorate.

International non-governmental organization partners

- The number of international NGOs approved to work in the Syrian Arab Republic stands at 16.
- International NGOs are still not authorized to work directly with national NGOs and are not allowed to accompany United Nations convoys.
- There was no progress in the revision of the standard memorandum of understanding for international NGOs with SARC and line ministries.

National NGO partners

- The number of national NGOs authorized to partner with the United Nations stands at 85, operating through 141 branches.
- Two new national NGOs were authorized during the reporting period: one in Homs governorate and one in Damascus governorate.
- Two inactive national NGOs were removed from the authorized list.

5. Funding

- $439.5 million of funding for the Syrian crisis was registered during the reporting period. Of that amount, $141.5 million was for activities inside the Syrian Arab Republic and $298.0 million was for support to Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries.
- Of the total amount reported for the Syrian Arab Republic during the reporting period, 54.2 per cent ($76.7 million) was for activities included in the Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan. For neighbouring countries, 97.3 per cent ($289.9 million) of the amount reported was for activities included in the Syrian Arab Republic Regional Refugee Response Plan.
- As at 18 August, the total funding for the Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan and the Syrian Arab Republic Regional Refugee Response Plan stood at 39 per cent ($6.02 billion requested, $2.38 billion received). The Syrian Arab Republic Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan is 30 per cent funded and the Syrian Arab Republic Regional Refugee Response Plan is 45 per cent funded.

6. Overview of United Nations humanitarian response

Food assistance

- In July, WFP dispatched food to support approximately 3.66 million people across 13 Syrian governorates, corresponding to 86 per cent of the planned caseload of 4.25 million. This represented a 7 per cent increase on the 3.42 million (81 per cent of the target) reached in June.

- Of the total assistance dispatched in July, approximately 3.4 million people were assisted through regular programme deliveries (92 per cent), 7,000 people through cross-border operations (0.2 per cent) and 302,960 people through cross-line missions (8 per cent)[c] — a 121 per cent increase on the 136,845 people reached cross-line in June.

- The planned target for July could not be reached primarily because of insecure access routes that severely constrained deliveries, particularly to the north-east. As a result, approximately 388,539 people could not be reached with the planned food assistance in Raqqa, Deir ez-Zor and Hasakeh during the reporting period, including 284,285 civilians in Raqqa and less than 20 per cent of the planned target of 521,265 people in Deir ez-Zor and Hasakeh.

- For the August dispatch cycle, WFP had dispatched 380,500 family food rations sufficient for 1,902,500 people as at 14 August, corresponding to 45 per cent of the planned target. This represents a 31 per cent increase compared to the same time in the July cycle. This included the shipment of 19,500 rations to 11 locations in rural Aleppo. Of these, 11,050 food rations sufficient for over 55,000 beneficiaries had been delivered as at 10 August to the eastern rural Aleppo villages of Menbej, Al Bab, Jarablus, Maskana and Dier Hafer.

Core relief items and shelter

- UNHCR dispatched core relief items for more than 181,600 people in nine governorates between 17 July and 4 August. In total, over 2.8 million people have received core relief items in 13 of the 14 governorates since the beginning of the year (with approximately 10.1 million items distributed overall). UNHCR has reached 434,645 individuals in 91 hard-to-reach and besieged areas since the beginning of the year.

- So far in 2014, UNHCR completed the rehabilitation of collective shelters in six governorates benefitting 8,396 people. In addition, private shelters have been upgraded for 24,176 people in Homs, Rif Dimashq and Aleppo governorates.

- The International Organization for Migration delivered non-food items, health items, shelter upgrade and rehabilitation items for 7,025 people in Deir ez-Zor, Aleppo, Sweida, Damascus and Hama governorates.

Health

- WHO distributed medicines and supplies for approximately 580,000 medical treatments, including in Raqqa, Aleppo, Rif Dimashq and Hasakeh governorates.[d] Intravenous fluids were provided to treat 3,333 people in Raqqa city. In Aleppo, in conjunction with SARC, 10 metric tons of surgical supplies

[c] This figure includes the 30,000 civilians assisted in Madamiyet Elsham who were part of the WFP July Dispatch cycle but who have already been reported on in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2139 (2014) (S/2014/525).

[d] One standard treatment course (for example, a course of antibiotics for 8 days) is considered as treatment for 1 person. Treatment courses are determined for each medicine distribution based on international WHO standards.

were delivered to four hospitals functioning in the opposition-controlled area of Aleppo city, as were chronic disease medicines for 22,300 people.

- In Rif Dimashq, WHO and SARC distributed two months' worth of antibiotics and chronic disease medicines for 24,000 people in the besieged community of Madamiyet Elsham. In Hasakeh, WHO participated in the Ministry of Health airlifts to the city of Qamishli to deliver intravenous fluids for the treatment of up to 3,400 people.

- The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) procured 30,000 intrauterine devices for health facilities supported by the Ministry of Health and the Syrian Arab Republic Family Planning Association. UNFPA also procured 5 autoclaves and 10 centrifuges for use in laboratories at the health facilities.

- UNFPA continued to support its implementing partners to deliver lifesaving reproductive health services through 28 mobile clinics, 27 static clinics and 13 medical points in Damascus, Rif Dimashq, Homs, Aleppo, Deir ez-Zor, Raqqa, Hama, Dar`a, Tartus and Ladhiqiyah governorates. Approximately 19,500 women received reproductive health services during the reporting period, including 3,000 who benefited from family planning services; and 500 pregnant women were referred for delivery services using reproductive health vouchers.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

- During the reporting period, UNICEF reached 16.5 million people with access to safe water through the supply of sodium hypochlorite; 41 per cent of people assisted are in non-government-controlled areas.

- UNICEF and partners reached 60,039 people in hard-to-reach areas with access to water, sanitation and hygiene services. In Hasakeh, UNICEF partners distributed water purification tablets to 5,000 people and hygiene kits to 639 beneficiaries and supported the installation of one water tank benefiting 400 persons. In Homs, UNICEF, through SARC, distributed water purification tablets to 9,900 households (approximately 49,500 people).

- In 2014 overall, UNICEF has delivered safe water to 747,018 people through water tankering, the distribution of aqua tabs and temporary water storage; 320,308 people with hygiene items and hygiene promotion messages; and 22,956 people with access to appropriately designed toilets and hand-washing facilities.

Education

- Current education activities are focused on preparations for the new school year in the Syrian Arab Republic, which starts on 14 September. UNICEF, in coordination with the Ministry of Education, is planning to implement a "Back to Learning" campaign, targeting 447,681 children.

- During the reporting period, UNICEF and the Directorate of Education in Hasakeh governorate operated school clubs in nine hard-to-reach areas, benefiting 7,355 children, nearly 50 per cent of them girls. Education supplies, such as recreational kits and school supply kits, were also distributed.

- In Homs city, Rastan and surrounding areas, school clubs continued to operate in 48 UNICEF-supported learning centres (clubs), reaching 15,745 children.
- During the reporting period, 590 children received mine risk education in Homs, including the hard-to-reach areas of Qariatein and the Old City of Homs. UNICEF provided mine risk education to some 22,800 people in the first of half of 2014.

Palestine refugees

- Through regular programming, UNRWA provided food assistance to 60,076 people; health consultations to 77,357 people; cash assistance to 45,892 people; 422 new microfinance loans; and water, sanitation and hygiene/shelter support to 13,865 people.
- UNRWA delivered food assistance to 6,060 people, medical assistance to 1,200 people and non-food items to 4,520 people in Yarmouk.

Agriculture

- The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) provided agricultural support to 17,430 people in Rif Dimashq, Hama and Idlib governorates.
- FAO is finalizing a partnership arrangement with the Syrian Veterinary Association to treat 3.8 million animals in Rif Dimashq, Homs, Hama, Hasakeh, Idlib and Dar`a governorates.

Protection and community services

- UNHCR continued its protection monitoring activities through staff on the ground in seven key locations; 11 community centres; partnerships with international and local organizations; and over 250 outreach volunteers. UNHCR conducted a protection monitoring visit to Al-Andalus school facility, which houses individuals evacuated from the Old City of Homs.
- UNHCR and partners have reached more than 80,000 people with psychosocial support, social, recreational and learning activities, sexual and gender-based violence awareness, vocational training and legal aid since the start of 2014.
- UNFPA and partners provided 5,000 women with psychosocial support and psychological first aid services in Damascus, Rif Dimashq, Homs, Aleppo, Deir ez-Zor, Raqqa, Hama, Dar`a, Tartus and Ladhiqiyah governorates. In addition, 1,361 women and girls were screened for gender-based violence, of which 193 survivors of gender-based violence received specialized services, including medical counselling.
- UNICEF, in cooperation with local NGOs provided psychosocial support for 11,531 children in Damascus, Rif Dimashq, Dar`a, Quneitra, Tartus, Ladhiqiyah, Hama and Homs governorates. In 2014, UNICEF has reached 52,672 children and adolescents overall with psychosocial services.

Response to the Iraqi refugee crisis in Hasakeh governorate

- In view of the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Hasakeh governorate with the influx of the approximately 55,000 people fleeing north-western Iraq, United Nations airlifts are taking place from Damascus into Hasakeh governorate. UNHCR has delivered 10,000 non-food item packets for 50,000 people, of which 5,000 are specifically in response to the influx of Iraqi refugees. WFP has supplied 10,000 family food rations sufficient for 50,000 people and 6,000 ready-to-eat meals. Further airlifts are scheduled.

- As at 15 August, UNHCR, in coordination with the United Nations hub in Qamishli, had dispatched approximately 1,200 non-food item kits, 1,200 ready-to-eat food rations, nutrition assistance for 1,000 children, water, sanitation and hygiene supplies for 3,000 people, and potable water for Iraqi refugees located in the Nawrouz internally displaced persons camp and nearby villages. More distributions are planned.

United Nations S/2014/612

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 August 2014

Original: English

Letter dated 22 August 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to enclose herewith a statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine dated 22 August 2014 regarding the illegal crossing of the State border of Ukraine by the Russian convoy (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Oleksandr **Pavlichenko**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

14-59675 (E) 250814

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 22 August 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement dated 22 August 2014 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine in connection with the illegal crossing of the State border of Ukraine by the Russian convoy

On 22 August, Russia began smuggling humanitarian aid to Ukraine, ignoring established international rules, procedures and agreements, without the consent and escort of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Although the border and customs services of Ukraine had already started clearance of the Russian convoy, in the morning, Ukrainian officials were blocked by the Russian forces and detached from the inspection of the rest of the trucks in the column, despite previous agreements and the fact that they had been invited into the territory of Russia. We are concerned about the safety of our employees. Moreover, deep concern is raised because, so far, neither the Ukrainian side nor ICRC are aware of the content of the cargo.

The fact that Russian trucks entered the territory of Ukraine without proper border and customs procedures and that the cargo was not donated to the representatives of ICRC indicates the deliberate and aggressive nature of Russia's actions.

As we have previously emphasized, the Russian side is fully responsible for the safety of the cargo. It is important to note that Ukraine has already taken all necessary measures to ensure the security of the cargo.

In order to prevent any provocations, we have issued all necessary instructions for the safe passing of the convoy. Despite all attempts by the Ukrainian side, contact between the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and that of Russia has not been established, which is critical to ensure security along the route. We point out that terrorists carry out mortar attacks along the possible route of the cargo.

Furthermore, we are not aware of the content of the agreements of the Russian side with Luhansk insurgents and we do not exclude the possibility of any planned provocation.

We consider this act to be another flagrant violation of the fundamental principles of international law, including the inviolability of borders, non-interference in the internal affairs of another State and the bona fide fulfilment of international obligations by the Russian Federation.

United Nations S/2014/613

Security Council

Distr.: General
21 August 2014

Original: English

Note by the President of the Security Council

Following consultations among the members of the Security Council, it has been agreed to amend the reporting period established in paragraph 6 of resolution 2046 (2012) and subsequently amended in a note by the President of the Security Council (S/2013/657) to three-month intervals.

14-59667 (E) 250814

Please recycle

United Nations S/2014/614

Security Council

Distr.: General
26 August 2014

Original: English

France, Italy, Jordan, Luxembourg, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on Lebanon, in particular resolutions 425 (1978), 426 (1978), 1559 (2004), 1680 (2006), 1701 (2006), 1773 (2007), 1832 (2008), 1884 (2009), 1937 (2010) and 2004 (2011), 2064 (2012) and 2115 (2013) as well as the statements of its President on the situation in Lebanon,

Responding to the request of the Government of Lebanon to extend the mandate of UNIFIL for a new period of one year without amendment presented in a letter from the Lebanese Foreign Minister to the Secretary-General of 25 July 2014 and welcoming the letter from the Secretary-General to its President of 31st July 2014 (S/2014/554) recommending this extension,

Reiterating its strong support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon,

Reaffirming its commitment to the full implementation of all provisions of resolution 1701 (2006), and aware of its responsibilities to help secure a permanent ceasefire and a long-term solution as envisioned in the resolution,

Calling upon all concerned parties to strengthen their efforts to fully implement all provisions of resolution 1701 (2006) without delay,

Expressing deep concern at all violations in connection with resolution 1701 (2006), and *looking forward* to the rapid finalization of UNIFIL's investigations with a view to preventing such violations in the future,

Welcoming the constructive role played by the tripartite mechanism in de-escalating tensions and *expressing its support* for the efforts of UNIFIL to engage with both parties to further develop liaison and coordination arrangements,

Emphasizing the importance of full compliance with the prohibition on sales and supply of arms and related materiel established by resolution 1701,

Recalling the utmost importance that all parties concerned respect the Blue Line in its entirety, *welcoming* the continued progress in the marking of the Blue line, and *encouraging* the parties to accelerate their efforts in coordination with UNIFIL to visibly mark the Blue Line in its entirety, as well as to move forward on the marking of its points of contention, as recommended by the Strategic Review,

14-59852 (E) 260814

Please recycle

Condemning in the strongest terms all attempts to threaten the security and stability of Lebanon, *reaffirming* its determination to ensure that no such acts of intimidation will prevent UNIFIL from implementing its mandate in accordance with Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) and recalling the necessity for all parties to ensure that UNIFIL personnel are secure and their freedom of movement is fully respected and unimpeded,

Recalling the relevant principles contained in the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel,

Commending the active role and dedication of the personnel of UNIFIL and *expressing* its strong appreciation to Member States that contribute to UNIFIL and *underlining* the necessity that UNIFIL have at its disposal all necessary means and equipment to carry out its mandate,

Recalling the request from the Government of Lebanon to deploy an international force to assist it to exercise its authority throughout the territory and *reaffirming* UNIFIL's authority to take all necessary action in areas of operations of its forces and as it deems within its capabilities, to ensure that its area of operations is not utilized for hostile activities of any kind and to resist attempts by forceful means to prevent it from discharging its mandate,

Welcoming the efforts of the Secretary-General to keep all peacekeeping operations, including UNIFIL, under close review and *stressing the need* for the Council to pursue a rigorous, strategic approach to peacekeeping deployments,

Expressing its full support for the strategic priorities and recommendations identified by the Secretary-General in his letter of 12 March 2012 (S/2012/151) as a result of the Strategic Review of UNIFIL, and *requesting* the Secretary-General to continue updating the Council on the implementation of the Strategic Review,

Calling upon member States to assist the Lebanese Armed Forces as needed to enable it to perform its duties in line with resolution 1701 (2006),

Determining that the situation in Lebanon continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security,

1. *Decides* to extend the present mandate of UNIFIL until 31 August 2015;

2. *Commends* the positive role of UNIFIL, whose deployment together with the Lebanese Armed Forces has helped to establish a new strategic environment in southern Lebanon, *welcomes* the expansion of coordinated activities between UNIFIL and the Lebanese armed forces, and *calls for* further enhancement of this cooperation;

3. *Welcomes* in this regard the engagement of UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces in the Strategic Dialogue which aims at carrying out analysis of ground forces and maritime assets and setting a series of benchmarks reflecting the correlation between the capacities and responsibilities of UNIFIL vis-à-vis those of the Lebanese Armed Forces, with a view to identifying Lebanese Armed Forces requirements for implementing tasks mandated in resolution 1701 (2006), and, in this regard, is encouraged by the progress made in the formalisation of a regular Strategic Dialogue mechanism between the Lebanese Armed Forces and UNIFIL;

4. *Commends*, in this context, the Lebanese Armed Forces for its efforts regarding its wider capabilities development plan, of which the Strategic Dialogue

plan forms a separate but integral component, consistent with the relevant recommendations of the Strategic Review, and encourages Member States to support LAF in particular through the established coordination tools of international assistance to build up Lebanese Armed Forces capabilities including through training, as these forces are a central pillar of the country's stability; and recognizes in this regard the importance of the International Support Group for Lebanon and the related meetings held in Paris and Rome, as well as substantial contributions already made by some donors;

5. *Strongly calls upon* all parties concerned to respect the cessation of hostilities, to prevent any violation of the Blue Line and to respect it in its entirety and to cooperate fully with the United Nations and UNIFIL;

6. *Welcomes* in this regard the constructive role played by the tripartite mechanism in facilitating coordination and in de-escalating tensions and expresses *support for* the efforts of UNIFIL to engage with both parties to further develop liaison and coordination arrangements;

7. *Urges* all parties to abide scrupulously by their obligation to respect the safety of UNIFIL and other United Nations personnel and to ensure that the freedom of movement of UNIFIL is fully respected and unimpeded, in conformity with its mandate and its rules of engagement including by avoiding any course of action which endangers United Nations personnel, and in this regard, *calls* for further cooperation between UNIFIL and the Lebanese Armed Forces in particular regarding coordinated and adjacent patrols, *welcomes* the commitment of the Lebanese authorities to protect UNIFIL movements and *reiterates its call* for the rapid finalization of the investigation launched by Lebanon regarding the 27 May, 26 July and 9 December 2011 attacks in order to bring to justice the perpetrators of these attacks;

8. *Urges* all parties to cooperate fully with the Security Council and the Secretary-General to make tangible progress towards a permanent ceasefire and a long-term solution as envisioned in resolution 1701 (2006), and *emphasizes* that more work remains to be done by the parties to advance the full implementation of resolution 1701 (2006);

9. *Urges* the Government of Israel to expedite the withdrawal of its army from northern Ghajar without further delay in coordination with UNIFIL, which has actively engaged Israel and Lebanon to facilitate such a withdrawal;

10. *Reaffirms* its call on all states to fully support and respect the establishment between the Blue Line and the Litani River of an area free of any armed personnel, assets and weapons other than those of the Government of Lebanon and UNIFIL;

11. *Welcomes* the efforts being undertaken by UNIFIL to implement the Secretary-General's zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure full compliance of its personnel with the United Nations code of conduct, requests the Secretary-General to continue to take all necessary action in this regard and to keep the Security Council informed, and urges troop-contributing countries to take preventive and disciplinary action to ensure that such acts are properly investigated and punished in cases involving their personnel;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report to the Council on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006), every four months, or at any time as he deems appropriate;

13. *Stresses* the importance of, and the need to achieve, a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, based on all its relevant resolutions including its resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, 1515 (2003) of 19 November 2003, and 1850 (2008) of 16 December 2008;

14. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

United Nations A/ES-10/654–S/2014/615

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 August 2014

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 22 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith, on behalf of the countries that comprise the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America — Peoples' Trade Treaty (ALBA-TCP) — Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Venezuela — a copy of a joint communication on the current situation in the State of Palestine and the ongoing Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Samuel **Moncada**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

14-59672 (E) 050914

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Annex to the letter dated 22 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Permanent Missions of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Republic of Cuba, the Republic of Ecuador, the Republic of Nicaragua and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations, member States of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America — Peoples' Trade Treaty (ALBA-TCP), have the honour to address the President of the Security Council in the opportunity of strongly condemning the continued and systematic Israeli military aggression against the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip, unleashed as of 8 July 2014.

We condemn the indiscriminate military attacks perpetrated by Israel, which have resulted in the deaths of over 2,000 Palestinians, particularly children, women and the elderly, as well as the countless injured. Likewise, the permanent bombing of Israeli forces have destroyed hospital, educational and housing infrastructure, as well as the network of basic services in the Gaza Strip, including United Nations facilities, causing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis.

Similarly, Israel has hampered humanitarian aid to Palestinians in Gaza, resorting to intimidation through their military action, as happened in Rafah on 20 August 2014, when a fighter aircraft dropped a bomb a few metres from where a Venezuelan delegation was delivering humanitarian aid, without it having luckily exploded.

It is necessary that the Security Council fulfils the responsibilities that the Charter of the United Nations provides for the maintenance of international peace and security. In this regard, we call upon its members to rally collectively for demanding that Israel ends these brutal actions against the Palestinian people in Gaza.

Until the Security Council does not adopt, due to the refusal of one of its members, a resolution for the immediate ceasefire and the lifting of the illegal blockade of the Gaza Strip by Israel, the international community will continue to witness this unacceptable slaughter.

The Israeli aggressions represent a flagrant violation of international law, including the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, international law of human rights and international humanitarian law, hence constituting crimes against humanity.

Furthermore, we deplore the Israeli withdrawal from the negotiations in Cairo aimed at achieving a permanent and sustainable ceasefire; we encourage the parties to resume those talks.

We, the ALBA countries, reaffirm our support for the self-determination of the Palestinian people and their right for having a free, sovereign and independent State, with borders.

(*Signed*) Sacha **Llorentty Solíz**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Rodolfo **Reyes Rodríguez**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cuba
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Xavier **Lasso Mendoza**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Ecuador
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Maria Clarisa **Goldrick**
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Nicaragua
to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Samuel **Moncada**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
to the United Nations

United Nations A/68/979–S/2014/616

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
22 August 2014

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General Assembly
Sixty-eighth session
Agenda items 34, 38, 67, 77, 85 and 86

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Elimination of racism and racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts

The rule of law at the national and international levels

The scope and application of the principle of universal jurisdiction

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Letter dated 22 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to draw your attention to the letter dated 7 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia (A/68/968-S/2013/577) and his statements made at an open debate of the Security Council on the topic of conflict prevention on 21 August 2014. In reality, the aforementioned letter and statements are yet other attempts by Armenia to deny the facts that point to its policy of aggression, hostility and hatred towards Azerbaijan. Below are some of those facts that totally disprove the allegations of the Permanent Representative of Armenia.

Armenia often welcomes the efforts of the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The aforementioned letter from the Permanent Representative of Armenia and his statements are no exception. However, apart from being done on a selective basis, merely welcoming those efforts is not sufficient for achieving progress in the conflict settlement process, especially when the commitments and deeds of Armenia have always been at odds with that goal.

Armenia tries to assure the United Nations community of its support for an early and lasting settlement of the conflict and to the principles of international law, in particular those reflected in the relevant statements by the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group. In reality, Armenia has grossly violated those and other principles of

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international law by seizing and continuing to occupy and control the Daghlyq Qarabagh (Nagorno-Karabakh) region and other areas of Azerbaijan. That Armenia is responsible for aggression against Azerbaijan and for the resulting situation is beyond any doubt.

In contrast to Armenia's interpretation of international legal norms and principles, the primary objective of these norms and principles in the context of the ongoing conflict settlement process is, first and foremost, to ensure that the occupied territories of Azerbaijan are liberated, that people who have been forcibly displaced return to their homes and that Armenia and Azerbaijan establish relations on the basis of respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Armenia rejects that understanding, thus preventing the achievement of a negotiated settlement of the conflict and continuing to violate international law and destabilize the situation.

It is no coincidence that the Permanent Representative of Armenia did not refer in his aforementioned letter and statements to Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993), which are the most authoritative decisions on the problem. The reason for such absent-mindedness is obvious. In those resolutions, the Council reaffirmed both the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory. It further stated that the Daghlyq Qarabagh (Nagorno-Karabakh) region is part of Azerbaijan and demanded the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of occupying forces from all the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. The numerous documents adopted by other international organizations on the conflict contain wording along the same lines. In other words, Armenia omits mentioning the resolutions of the Council and the documents of other international organizations simply because its assessment of Armenian actions against Azerbaijan is diametrically opposite to what the official Erivan asserts.

The Armenian side's forgetfulness also extends to its frequent references to confidence-building measures. Evidently, Armenia's perception of such measures is limited to the withdrawal of snipers and the investigation of ceasefire incidents only. Otherwise, the Permanent Representative of Armenia would recall that his Government deliberately denies the right of almost 1 million Azerbaijani refugees and internally displaced persons to return to their homes and undertakes efforts to alter the demographic structure of the occupied territories and remove any signs of Azerbaijani cultural and historical roots of those territories. Armenia's speculations on confidence-building are also curious insofar as Armenia persistently opposes direct contact between the Azerbaijani and Armenian communities of the Daghlyq Qarabagh (Nagorno-Karabakh) region of Azerbaijan.

Likewise, the undisguised promotion by the leadership of Armenia of the odious ideas of ethnic and religious incompatibility with Azerbaijanis can hardly contribute to building confidence. The recent warmongering statement by President Serzh Sargsyan of Armenia is yet another solid piece of evidence testifying to the consistency of the official Erivan policy of aggression, hatred and racial animosity. Thus, in his recent interview, Serzh Sargsyan threatened to unleash short-range ballistic missiles against major cities in Azerbaijan, including the capital Baku, thus turning them, with their millions of residents, into ruins. The following words belonging to the President of Armenia require no further comment:

> The Azerbaijani leadership knows very well what resources the Armenian armed forces have in stock. They are very well aware that we have ballistic missiles with an effective range of over 300 km, and that they are capable of turning into ruins any flourishing settlement in a glimpse, like the ruins of Aghdam.[1]

Such revelations by the head of the Armenian State are not surprising. The direct involvement of the current political and military leadership of Armenia, including its incumbent and former Presidents, in brutal massacres during the conflict, which claimed the lives of thousands of Azerbaijani civilians, including children, women and the elderly, is well known and thoroughly documented (for more information, see A/67/753-S/2013/106). Evidence of a special relationship in Armenia with terrorists and war criminals can also be seen in their glorification at the State level, including by raising them to the status of national heroes and bestowing State decorations on them.

Allegations of the "dissemination of hatred towards Armenia and the Armenian people" are also beneath all criticism. Suffice it to mention that, unlike Armenia, which has implemented a policy of total ethnic cleansing of both its own territory and the occupied territories of Azerbaijan of all non-Armenians and thus succeeded in creating a uniquely monoethnic culture in those areas, Azerbaijan has preserved its ethnic and cultural diversity to the present day.

Besides, in apparent disregard of its obligations under international law and of its respective commitments under the existing arms control regime, Armenia continues to build up its military presence in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Comparative analyses show that, in relation to its population, territory, annual budget and gross domestic product, Armenia is the most militarized country in the South Caucasus.

As we have stated on a number of occasions, regular ceasefire violations and deliberate attacks by the armed forces of Armenia against Azerbaijani civilians and civilian objects have become more frequent and violent in recent times, resulting in the killing and wounding of many inhabitants residing near the front line. On 3 August 2014, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan stated the following:

> During the last several days, having violated the ceasefire regime in various directions along the Armenia-Azerbaijan border and the line of contact, the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia, the Occupying Power, have made several incursions into the positions of the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The reconnaissance and subversive groups of the armed forces of Armenia have made several attempts to cross the line of contact. These provocative actions by the Armenian side caused significant escalation along the frontline and resulted in numerous human losses. The official Yerevan, which ordered these provocative actions, bears full responsibility for aggravating the dangerous situation. (For the full text of the statement, see A/68/962-S/2014/566, annex.)

The conclusion is self-evident. In reality, by disregarding the resolutions of the Security Council and the decisions of other international organizations, by

[1] Interview given to ArmNews TV on 11 August 2014. Available from the President of Armenia's official website: www.president.am/en/interviews-and-press-conferences/item/2014/08/11/President-Serzh-Sargsyan-interview-Armnews-Sochi.

continuing to illegally occupy the territories of Azerbaijan, by deliberately denying the right of 1 million Azerbaijani refugees and internally displaced persons to return to their homes, and by misinterpreting the norms and principles of international law, Armenia clearly demonstrates who is actually destabilizing the situation and undermining peace in the region.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34, 38, 67, 77, 85 and 86, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2014/617

Security Council

Distr.: General
29 August 2014

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 2119 (2013), the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) until 15 October 2014 and requested me to report on its implementation semi-annually and not later than 45 days before its expiration. The present report covers major developments since the issuance of my report of 7 March 2014 (S/2014/162) to 29 August 2014 and outlines activities undertaken by the Mission in line with its mandate under Security Council resolutions 1542 (2004), 1608 (2005), 1702 (2006), 1743 (2007), 1780 (2007), 1840 (2008), 1892 (2009), 1908 (2010), 1927 (2010), 1944 (2010), 2012 (2011), 2070 (2012) and 2119 (2013).

II. Political and security update

Political situation

2. The reporting period saw, at the outset, the signature of the El Rancho Accord, following an encouraging dialogue process mediated by the Episcopal Conference of Haiti, which convened the executive, the parliament and political parties. The remainder of the period, however, was marked by protracted negotiations between the executive and the legislature on the implementation of the Accord, notably concerning the establishment of an electoral council and the adoption of an amended electoral law, both required to organize the long-overdue local and legislative elections.

3. The Accord provided for a 10-day period within which the 2013 electoral law would be amended to allow for combined elections, by 26 October 2014, for two thirds of the Senate, the entire Chamber of Deputies, municipal administrations and local councils. It also called for the conversion of the former Transitory College of the Permanent Electoral Council into a new provisional electoral council, with an agreement that each branch of power could change one of its three nominees. A partial reshuffle of the Cabinet would allow for the appointment of representatives of political parties and other sectors of society.

4. On 21 March, the President, Michel Joseph Martelly, publicly lauded the dialogue process and stated his Administration's commitment to implementing the Accord. However, several actors from the opposition, including a group of six

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senators, rejected the Accord, arguing that their position had not been taken into consideration in the dialogue phase leading up to the Accord. They had argued for a complete reshuffle of the Electoral Council, with nine new members recognized for their independence.

5. In keeping with the provisions of the Accord, the Chamber of Deputies adopted the amendments to the electoral law on 1 April and the executive reshuffled the Cabinet the following day. Seven new ministers and 10 new secretaries of State were appointed. While the executive qualified the new appointments as a signal of its commitment to openness, given that the Cabinet included members from a wider array of political parties, the opposition mostly judged it as not sufficiently inclusive. On 7 April, the President swore in the members of the Superior Court of Auditors and Administrative Disputes, a constitutional requirement in line with another provision of the Accord.

6. Those steps notwithstanding, the issue of the composition of the Electoral Council continued to divide the executive, key opposition political parties and opposition parliamentarians. The last-mentioned consistently opposed any attempt by the Senate to vote on the amended electoral law by repeatedly preventing the required quorum from being reached. The impasse stemmed from the widely held perception that influence over the members of the Electoral Council is a key determinant of the electoral outcome.

7. On 6 May, as called for in the Accord, the President established the Electoral Council by means of a presidential order. He also replaced one of the three executive members. Two of the nine nominated members abstained from participating in the swearing-in ceremony on 9 May, citing the absence of confirmation by the parliament of its nominees. The installation on 12 May of seven members further fuelled political polarization regarding the elections and prompted a joint declaration by opposition political parties calling for a balanced and credible electoral council. Meanwhile, negotiations continued against a backdrop of intensifying calls by the international community and political parties, civil society and human rights organizations, the private sector and religious groups to reach a compromise solution on a more consensual electoral council.

8. On 9 June, an agreement was reached for the parliament and the judiciary each to replace one member of the Electoral Council while maintaining those members deemed independent by the opposition. The next day, the President issued a presidential order in which he called elections and set 26 October 2014 as the date for the first round. Those developments paved the way for the installation on 21 July of the remaining members of the Electoral Council, one of whom was immediately elected as the new presiding officer. Lingering discontent among opposition senators about the composition continued to motivate resistance to voting on the electoral law in the Senate, however, creating uncertainty over the fulfilment of the remaining prerequisites for the holding of elections.

9. On 11 August, the Electoral Council addressed a letter to the President informing him that it was technically impossible to organize the first round of elections by 26 October owing to the lack of an amended electoral law providing the required legal framework. In response, the executive undertook to initiate consultations with the leaders of both houses of the parliament, the Electoral Council and some political parties to reach consensus on the steps required to ensure the holding of the first round of the elections by the end of 2014.

10. Meanwhile, a controversy erupted when a court in Port-au-Prince issued a warrant on 13 August for the former President, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, to be brought before an investigative judge, following his failure to respond to a court summons the previous day. The summons was reportedly issued on 11 August, in connection with a continuing investigation into alleged financial improprieties committed during his term in office. His lawyers claimed that that he had never received the summons and wrote to the judge on 13 August requesting him to clarify the matter. Some members of the opposition denounced the warrant as a political manoeuvre.

Security assessment

11. The security environment remained relatively stable, including in the five departments vacated by the MINUSTAH military component (Grand-Anse, Nippes, South, South-East and North-West). Crime statistics collected by the national police and MINUSTAH demonstrated a solid downward trend in kidnappings, with a decrease of 74 per cent compared with the same period in 2013, resulting from the dismantling of a significant portion of kidnapping networks by the authorities over the past 24 months. The period saw, however, an increase of 24 per cent in the number of homicides (416 reported cases) compared with the corresponding period in 2013. This can be attributed, to a large extent, to gang disputes over territorial control in security-sensitive neighbourhoods of the greater metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince, where some 76 per cent of the homicides were recorded. The number of reported rapes (154 cases) was slightly higher than during the same period in 2013 (147 cases).

12. The increase in homicides confirms that, while the overall security situation remains relatively stable, underlying fragilities remain, stemming from the weakness of State institutions, political uncertainty and the significant number of Haitians living in extreme poverty. It also reflects the continued challenges faced by the national police in deterring crime in sensitive neighbourhoods owing to insufficient personnel, equipment and vehicles.

13. Demonstrations triggered by socioeconomic grievances (194 reported events) increased by some 31 per cent compared with the same period in 2013. A total of 53 were reported as violent (characterized by the use of road barricades and the throwing of stones), representing an increase of 96 per cent. The number of politically motivated demonstrations remained relatively low (40 reported events), with most conducted peacefully. The large majority of the demonstrations were held in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince, with a spike seen in the Nippes Department (46 demonstrations).

14. The performance of the national police in terms of crowd control continued to improve during the reporting period. Specialized crowd control units were present at half of all the demonstrations, compared with 29 per cent during the same period in 2013. Nevertheless, in 33 per cent of the demonstrations, the national police continued to request operational support from MINUSTAH as a second line of response, compared with 27 per cent in 2013. This also reflects better coordination between the Mission's police component and the national police. At the same time, the presence of troops supporting the police in the aftermath of demonstrations through patrolling, as well as in the removal of obstacles and minor repairs, decreased from 32 to 8 per cent of all demonstrations.

III. Humanitarian, recovery and economic update

15. Haiti continued to make progress in relocating persons displaced by the earthquake of 2010. As at 30 June, the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area contained 172 sites inhabited by 103,565 internally displaced persons. Since 2010, the number of internally displaced Haitians has fallen by some 90 per cent. Between March and June, 71 sites were closed, 70 as part of relocation programmes supported by humanitarian partners and 1, affecting 145 households, as a result of a forced eviction by a landowner.

16. Critical needs and acute vulnerabilities remain. Camp conditions are poor, with uneven access to water and functional toilets and global acute malnutrition rates reaching 12.5 per cent. A decrease in forced evictions notwithstanding, no durable solutions have been identified for some 70,000 of the remaining displaced persons. During his visit to Haiti from 29 June to 5 July, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons urged the Government to move towards development-based solutions for the displaced.

17. Efforts by the Government, supported by international partners, have significantly reduced the toll of the cholera epidemic. According to the Ministry of Public Health and Population, the cholera epidemic had caused the deaths of 8,570 persons and infected 705,084 as at 20 July. In the first half of 2014, partners working to eliminate cholera conducted 165 responses to alerts in 47 communes, providing assistance to an estimated 112,000 people by supplying water, sanitation and hygiene packages. Between January and June, 45 fatalities and 6,406 suspected cases were registered, representing a decrease of 82 per cent in the number of cases compared with the same period in 2013.

18. As at 13 August, funding for the humanitarian action plan stood at only 39 per cent ($66 million of the $168 million required). The most underfunded sectors are nutrition and protection. The process to establish a transitional appeal has begun and will allow humanitarian problems to be tackled through development-based approaches.

19. The report for 2013 on the country's efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals was launched during the reporting period, outlining the progress achieved in recent years in areas such as school attendance rates for boys and girls, child mortality, access to water and extreme poverty reduction. Regarding the macroeconomic situation, an assessment mission of the International Monetary Fund visited Haiti in May 2014 and estimated that the annual economic growth rate would be 3 to 4 per cent for the fiscal year 2013/14.

IV. Activities of the Mission

Provision of support to State institutions

20. The Mission provided technical support to the Ministry of the Interior on the development of a new strategy on local tax reform. This included five departmental workshops organized by the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Ministry of the Interior. Recommendations resulting from the consultations were included in the 2014/15 national budget, which has been approved by the Chamber of Deputies. MINUSTAH also continued to provide advice on integrated border management to

the Haitian Customs Administration and the interministerial committee against contraband and corruption. With MINUSTAH support, the Customs Surveillance Directorate completed the recruitment of 125 cadets, who are currently undertaking a six-month training programme.

21. In April, MINUSTAH and United Nations partners, under the leadership of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, supported the development of a joint training strategy to strengthen the national disaster management system. In July, the Mission and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) developed a framework to provide joint technical support to the Ministry of the Interior, through capacity-building for departmental delegations, gender mainstreaming on local governance issues and prevention of and response to natural disasters. The efforts are in line with the Mission's current consolidation plan, which foresees a progressive transfer of MINUSTAH activities in the above areas.

Provision of support to the political process

22. My Special Representative for Haiti actively engaged with national political stakeholders to promote dialogue and consensus before and after the signature of the El Rancho Accord. Working in close collaboration with representatives of the international community, the Mission conducted extensive shuttle diplomacy with the three branches of government, political parties and civil society to take the organization of the elections forward, including with regard to the appointment of the Electoral Council and the amendment of the electoral law. MINUSTAH also advocated the adoption of key legislation such as the national budget for 2013/14 and the anti-corruption law, which was promulgated by the President on 7 May.

Electoral support

23. The Government and the United Nations established a joint security, logistics and nationalization commission, composed of the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, the Provisional Electoral Council, the national police, MINUSTAH and UNDP, to facilitate the organization of the 2014 elections and the gradual handover of electoral operations to the authorities. In support of the voter registration campaign of the National Identification Office, MINUSTAH offered transportation for 64 mobile teams, helped to develop the campaign's communications plan, produced and broadcast a radio spot and printed 10,000 posters. It also provided operational assistance and equipment to the Electoral Council, including prefabricated offices, furniture and information technology equipment. The departmental joint electoral support centres were reactivated in June and, jointly with staff from the Electoral Council and the national police, all 1,492 voting centres were assessed in terms of availability, capacity and security.

24. From 25 April to 21 June, MINUSTAH held 114 pre-electoral forums at the municipal or district level to provide electoral civic education and reinforce local ownership of the electoral process.

Military

25. The military component of MINUSTAH conducted 14,981 patrols in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince and 13,604 patrols outside the capital. More than 80 per cent were carried out independently of the national police, owing to its

insufficient capacity and equipment. In addition, the military component conducted cordon and search operations in the most sensitive areas of the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, including Cité Soleil, La Saline and Carrefour (West Department). The operations involved carrying out patrols and checkpoints to maintain security, collect information and deter gang activity. The military component also conducted power projection and reinforcement operations, employing rapid reaction forces in remote areas. The operations were intended to demonstrate the Mission's capacity to respond rapidly and reinforce national forces by land and air.

26. From March to July, the military component also engaged in civil-military coordination activities, such as providing medical assistance and distributing water and food for an estimated 270,015 beneficiaries. This represented a decrease of some 20 per cent in such activities compared with the same period in 2013.

Police

27. MINUSTAH police officers co-located in commissariats throughout the country continued to advise, mentor and support their Haitian counterparts through joint operations, patrols and checkpoints. The police component continued to strengthen the capacity of the national police in recruiting and vetting new cadets and training and mentoring middle and senior managers, while supporting the Inspectorate General to improve accountability, discipline and respect for rules and regulations. The Mission also provided training to the national police in weapons and ammunition management, small arms control standards and ammunition disposal. MINUSTAH extended its co-location strategy to the central intelligence and operations centre and to the newly created national police strategic planning unit in Port-au-Prince, in addition to continuing to support the community policing initiative. Such support has led to positive results in the dismantling of kidnapping networks.

28. While the capacity of the Haitian police to combat crime and conduct crowd control operations has visibly improved, its limited numbers and geographical reach remain of concern. It is expected that by the end of 2014 the police-to-population ratio will be approximately 1.15 officers per 1,000 inhabitants, well below the minimum recommended ratio of 2.22 officers. With two thirds of the national police stationed in the capital, the ratio in rural areas is closer to 0.5 police officers. To increase the ratio, the recruitment and training of new cadets continued, in accordance with the national police development plan. On 4 May, a class of 1,146 cadets (including 117 women) began a seven-month basic training programme, in line with the requirement of at least 1,000 additional officers per year. There is, however, a need to increase the police school capacity to accommodate the larger promotions required to reach the target of 15,000 officers by 2016.

29. The efforts of the Government and its international partners notwithstanding, the national police continued to depend on MINUSTAH for logistical and operational support in several areas, including daily operational patrols and deterrence activities in crime-prone areas. To tackle this challenge, MINUSTAH continued to carry out robust joint operations with the police in security-sensitive areas, including Cité Soleil, Simon Pelé and Martissant, in an effort to deter violence and disrupt gangs. From March to August, the Mission's formed police

units completed more than 22,500 patrols and 2,260 checkpoints, all conducted jointly with the national police in line with efforts to strengthen national capacity.

Protection of vulnerable groups

30. MINUSTAH uniformed personnel maintained their presence in camps for displaced persons and in fragile urban communities where women and children are vulnerable to crime and sexual and gender-based violence. MINUSTAH troops and individual police officers conducted 2,412 joint patrols in camps for internally displaced persons in Port-au-Prince. They were conducted independently of the Haitian police, which lacks the capacity to patrol camps frequently, unless responding to a report of crime. In addition, MINUSTAH, along with the International Organization for Migration, the police and a civil society organization, carried out three field missions to border areas, namely Malpasse (West Department), Belladère (Centre Department) and Anse-à-Pitres (South-East Department), to assess police capacity to monitor and respond to child rights violations, especially sexual violence and trafficking.

Community violence reduction

31. MINUSTAH continued to implement projects aimed at reducing community violence with a focus on providing socioeconomic alternatives to gang membership and associated criminal activities. The projects focused on providing employment opportunities to at-risk young people, protecting vulnerable groups and promoting dialogue and peaceful coexistence through forums and cultural activities.

32. The Mission supported 10 dialogue initiatives and targeted cultural forums in Port-au-Prince, in addition to completing 27 community violence reduction projects valued at $5.1 million in favour of 25,368 direct beneficiaries. Another 32 projects valued at $5.4 million were launched, including four labour-intensive projects focusing on public infrastructure, rehabilitation of canals and watershed management. Some 33,700 at-risk members of vulnerable communities will directly benefit from the projects, while 233,000 will benefit indirectly. The security-sensitive neighbourhood of Cité Soleil, where MINUSTAH carried out projects, patrols and security operations, registered a reduction of 46 per cent in the number of homicides compared with the same period in 2013.

Justice

33. MINUSTAH adopted a cost-effective and multiplier-effect strategy to catalyse judicial reform efforts through a model jurisdiction approach focused on the first-instance courts of Port-au-Prince, Cap-Haïtien and Les Cayes, serving more than one third of the country's population. The initiative has three principal objectives: ensuring the efficient functioning of the judicial system in the jurisdictions, reducing pretrial detention and improving access to justice. Those goals will be attained through the provision of technical assistance, focused on building the capacity of judges, prosecutors, court clerks and other stakeholders.

34. MINUSTAH, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, continued to support operations at five legal aid offices in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area. From April to mid-July, the five offices dealt with more than 1,915 legal cases. MINUSTAH and UNDP also worked to support the Superior Council of the Judiciary and the Ministry to develop a set of 117 templates and

forms for judicial acts, expected to expedite the handling of judicial cases when formally adopted by the Minister of Justice. In addition, MINUSTAH supported the training at the School of Magistrates of 39 students, including 15 women, who graduated as magistrates in May 2014. The incoming class contains 60 students, half of whom are women.

Corrections

35. Overcrowding, prolonged pretrial detention, lack of qualified health personnel and insufficient budgetary allocations remain the key challenges facing the prison system. The rate of overcrowding as at 1 August stood at 172 per cent, with a prison population of more than 10,000 inmates compared with an official capacity of 5,958. Persons held in pretrial detention account for more than 70 per cent of the total prison population. On 10 August, some 300 inmates escaped from the prison in Croix des Bouquets (West Department), which hosts nearly 900 inmates. The incident shed light on the continuing vulnerabilities of the corrections system. It is nonetheless noteworthy that measures were swiftly put in place by the authorities, including with support from MINUSTAH, such as the establishment of a prison security plan, increased checkpoints and patrols, joint intelligence, heightened surveillance of the border and airport and redeployment of prison personnel. As at 19 August, some 40 fugitives had been recaptured, including a high-profile detainee originally arrested in May 2012 on suspicion of heading a kidnapping network.

36. MINUSTAH continued to advocate increased ownership and accountability by Haitian decision makers on prison-related issues, including reforms of the Prisons Administration Directorate as part of the police development plan, while also providing technical support to the Directorate. To deal with prison overcrowding, the Mission participated in the preventive detention follow-up committees that review the eligibility of inmates for release. MINUSTAH promoted the construction and rehabilitation of detention cells in the prisons in Fort-Liberté (North-East Department) and Jérémie (Grand-Anse Department) to separate women and minors from the male population. The Mission also supported the training of 65 corrections officers and 18 prison social workers and funded a mental health care programme for inmates in need.

Human rights

37. The Mission continued to focus on the investigation and reporting of human rights violations. Some progress was made in the trials of those accused of serious human rights violations. At the beginning of May, the new investigating judge appointed by the Court of Appeal began to hear victims in the case against the former President, Jean-Claude Duvalier. In the case of the murder in 2000 of Jean Dominique, a journalist, a suspect wanted since 2004 was arrested abroad and handed over to the Haitian authorities in June. The verdict in the retrial of 14 Haitian police officers accused of murder and complicity in the killing of 12 detainees at the prison in Les Cayes (South Department) in 2010 was overturned, however, raising concerns about impunity. Only one officer was convicted in absentia.

38. With technical assistance from MINUSTAH, and following consultation with civil society organizations, Haiti submitted its initial report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in March 2014. From 15 to 22 July, MINUSTAH

facilitated the visit of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti.

Gender

39. In line with MINUSTAH efforts to promote the political participation of women, the Mission, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, UNDP, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems and the National Democratic Institute jointly organized a workshop on the participation of women in elections that was attended by more than 100 representatives of political parties and women's organizations.

40. Sexual and gender-based violence remained underreported and infrequently prosecuted. MINUSTAH continued to train police officers to prevent and respond to such cases and also extended its programme to judges and prosecutors. Office space to receive complaints of such violence was built or renovated in four police stations with MINUSTAH support. In addition, MINUSTAH and the International Organization for Migration supported the construction of a dedicated centre for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence within the public hospital of the North Department, which will benefit up to 700 victims per year.

Child protection

41. Haiti made considerable strides in promoting child protection legislation during the reporting period. Legislation against trafficking in persons and on paternity, maternity and lineage were promulgated early in June. Haiti also ratified the first two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Furthermore, the Government, in consultation with child protection partners, prepared legislation reforming social services responsible for child protection and a child protection code, to be submitted to the parliament by the end of the current legislature. MINUSTAH received 183 reports of child rights violations, slightly fewer than during the previous reporting period. The reports were shared weekly with the national police for follow-up.

HIV/AIDS

42. MINUSTAH and United Nations agencies supported the finalization of the revised national strategic plan for HIV/AIDS. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, in collaboration with civil society organizations and affected communities, supported a survey on stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS within religious communities in three departments. MINUSTAH also supported the implementation of a sexual violence and HIV prevention project in five regions, which reached 246 participants (75 men and 171 women) from associations of people living with HIV/AIDS, women's and youth organizations and lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender groups. To advocate the adoption of pending legislation on HIV/AIDS awareness, the Mission facilitated a series of working sessions with the health commissions of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, in partnership with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

Quick-impact projects

43. During the reporting period, the Mission completed 56 quick-impact projects. Their focus included strengthening the rule of law and good governance through

training and construction or rehabilitation of peace tribunals, town halls and police stations; cholera mitigation initiatives, with 12 projects to facilitate access to potable water for some 67,000 beneficiaries and 1 to build a cholera treatment centre for an estimated 200,000 beneficiaries; the installation of public lighting in vulnerable neighbourhoods; public infrastructure improvement projects, such as a municipal support centre for women who are victims of violence; awareness-raising campaigns on civic education and public policies carried out under three livelihood projects; and training of some 2,000 civil society representatives. By 30 June, the Mission had allocated the entire budget of $5 million for quick-impact projects for 2013/14 and an additional 109 projects had been initiated.

Conduct and discipline

44. During the reporting period, specific training sessions on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse were provided to 1,589 personnel. The Mission also conducted its awareness-raising campaign through posters and electronic media. A total of 48 allegations of misconduct were recorded in MINUSTAH during the reporting period, of which 4 were connected to sexual exploitation and abuse, compared with 7 in the corresponding period in 2013.

Public information and outreach

45. As part of the MINUSTAH strategy to promote a peaceful environment for the elections, the Mission used radio, outreach and video to disseminate messages of non-violence, fair play and civic participation during the daily free screenings of the football World Cup and live transmissions on the Mission's radio station. With the Mission's support, a Haiti-based theatre group carried out a series of awareness-raising activities and embarked on a nationwide tour as part of the "Let us choose peace" campaign. On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, 50 national media practitioners and 30 journalism students participated in the first of a series of workshops conducted by MINUSTAH and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the role of the press in a democratic society.

Mission support

46. In the light of the ongoing consolidation plan, MINUSTAH continued to offer capacity-building programmes for national staff. The Mission also began the 2014/15 financial period with the launch of Umoja Extension 1, for which it is the global pilot.

V. Humanitarian, recovery and development activities

Coordination between the Mission and the United Nations country team

47. The United Nations country team continued to develop and implement new joint programmes in line with the government-endorsed United Nations integrated strategic framework. Four joint programmes are under way and cover earthquake prevention, provision of support to housing reconstruction, rehabilitation of earthquake-affected neighbourhoods and voluntary relocation of displaced families, and dairy product transformation. As at 30 June, the disbursement rate of United Nations projects funded by the Haiti Reconstruction Fund was 89 per cent. During the reporting period, the Mission and the United Nations country team began to

revise the integrated strategic framework to better reflect the current national context and the reconfiguration of the United Nations system in Haiti.

48. The first national meeting of the aid effectiveness committee was held on 25 March with the goal of making the framework for coordination of external aid operational. The Government and its partners agreed on a road map for the completion of public financial management reform, continued efforts to strengthen the capacity of planning and thematic units and the simplification of the coordination framework.

49. The United Nations continued to provide support to the dialogue process between Haiti and the Dominican Republic by advising the Government of Haiti on issues put forward for discussion by the two countries, including border management, migration policy, trade and environmental protection. On 10 July, the high-level bilateral commission held its third meeting to date, which was followed by a joint meeting between the Presidents of Haiti and the Dominican Republic on 22 July, which was also attended by the President of the European Council. Both meetings were held in the Dominican Republic and reflect the countries' commitment to strengthening their bilateral relations.

United Nations efforts to eliminate the cholera epidemic

50. The High-level Committee for the Elimination of Cholera, which I established with the Prime Minister to coordinate the international community's response to the cholera epidemic, held its first meeting in Port-au-Prince on 27 May. At the meeting, attended by the Prime Minister and co-chaired by my Special Representative, the Committee endorsed the launch of a total sanitation campaign designed to reach 3 million people in rural areas over the coming five years with critical sanitation and hygiene interventions. A second meeting was held on 9 July, during which the Committee agreed to focus its work on the elaboration of a joint approach to providing socioeconomic assistance to people affected by cholera. On 14 July, during my two-day visit to Haiti, I launched the campaign in a rural area of Hinche (Centre Department), together with the Prime Minister. I also announced the imminent launch of the second phase of a vaccination campaign, which will target more than 200,000 people.

VI. Update on the drawdown and reconfiguration of the Mission

51. The military component continued to reduce its personnel, as mandated by the Security Council in its resolution 2119 (2013). MINUSTAH achieved its mandated troop strength of 5,021 soldiers on 30 June. This constitutes a reduction of approximately 15 per cent in the number of uniformed personnel. The Uruguayan maritime component was withdrawn in March, the Indonesian engineering company departed in April, the Nepalese and Jordanian battalions were repatriated in February and March, respectively, and the two remaining Uruguayan battalions were merged into a single, smaller unit. As at 1 July, the military component consisted of 21 infantry companies and two composite engineering companies, with no maritime capability remaining.

52. The drawdown of the Mission also led to the consolidation of logistical support into four regional hubs (Port-au-Prince, Gonaïves, Cap-Haïtien and Les Cayes). As at 1 July, there were five liaison offices (in Jérémie, Miragoâne, Port-de-Paix, Fort-Liberté and Hinche) reporting to five regional offices. The liaison offices perform a limited range of capacity-building, monitoring and mediation functions and have reduced staffing. They will be closed by 1 July 2015, reducing the Mission's footprint in line with its consolidation path and generating significant cost savings.

53. Given the Mission's consolidation process and in accordance with Security Council resolution 2119 (2013), in my previous report to the Council I outlined five possible configurations for a post-2016 presence in Haiti. In the subsequent debate on MINUSTAH in March, some Council members requested me to make recommendations on the optimal transition to a new configuration and the timing thereof. To that end, I deployed a strategic assessment mission to Haiti in June, under the overall guidance of the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, to hold extensive consultations with key national and international stakeholders, the senior leadership of MINUSTAH and the United Nations country team.

54. The findings were that continuity of United Nations support to Haitian institutions until the next electoral cycle and the installation of a new administration is desirable, in terms of the Mission's good offices and its support to stabilization, human rights and the rule of law, if the gains made to date are to be preserved and given the importance of a peaceful political transition in 2015. Any liquidation of MINUSTAH at the current stage would be premature and constrain the ability to plan for and address any instability associated with the lead-up to the presidential elections, at a time when the security situation remains fragile, the target strength of the national police is yet to be achieved and the force continues to develop its capacity to maintain country-wide stability.

55. As noted, at the end of 2014, the police-to-population ratio will still be far below the global average. In addition to the limited geographical reach of the police, its inadequate human and material resources and still-weak management systems are of concern. This was demonstrated by the fact that, in the past six months, the police still required support from the MINUSTAH police and military components to control more than one third of all demonstrations and to combat crime in sensitive areas. While the progress made is undeniable, the police cannot yet ensure country-wide security without support, in particular if confronted with additional challenges such as those that electoral periods may bring. It should be noted that, since the elections in 2011, the number of United Nations uniformed personnel has fallen by 42 per cent, against an increase of 18.7 per cent in the strength of the national police. Even at current levels of United Nations uniformed personnel, the next elections would see significantly decreased capacity to conduct several election-related tasks.

56. While the withdrawal of the Mission at this stage could contribute to creating a security vacuum and affect service delivery during emergencies, a conditions-based deepening of the current consolidation process is realistic, given the increased professionalization of the police and the progressive stabilization of the security environment. This would entail further consolidating the current military component to assist the Government only when a situation or threat exceeds the capacity of the

national authorities, with the support of the Mission's police component, to restore order. This would be achieved by maintaining a force based on two battalions comprising 2,370 troops, with enablers, deployed in the North and West Departments, to support the police when necessary. The reduction would come into effect by June 2015, depending on the security situation. The national police would then be able to count on the military component's support until the presidential elections in 2015 and the installation of a new government. The force could then be decreased further, possibly to one battalion, depending on the prevailing security situation at the time.

57. Given the focus on the national police of the Mission's stabilization and institutional strengthening efforts, the police component should remain at near-to-current levels, with an authorized strength of up to 2,601 officers. So as not to promote dependency, however, the Mission would not deploy formed police units to areas where none are currently present, unless the security situation so warrants. The presence of units in each department can be attained by relocating existing capacity, without increasing United Nations police strength or numbers.

58. Such a deepened consolidation would also entail a reduced physical and staffing footprint of the Mission, beyond that of troops, through a gradual disengagement from areas requiring longer-term development strategies than the lifespan of a peacekeeping mission permits. Possible areas of prudent but progressive disengagement include institution-building unrelated to the rule of law, decentralization, disaster preparedness and response and, eventually, electoral technical assistance.

59. A comprehensive transition plan between MINUSTAH, United Nations partners and the Government is required to ensure complementarity of efforts. In this context, the integrated strategic framework serves as a platform for greater alignment between the United Nations country team and the substantive sections of the Mission. A strategic planning process is under way, bringing together MINUSTAH and United Nations country team members to identify specific areas of collaboration or where engagement by the wider United Nations system and other partners could be increased. In this context, it will be crucial to ensure sustained financial and political support in key peacebuilding areas.

VII. Financial aspects

60. By its resolution 68/289, the General Assembly appropriated the amount of $500,080,500 for the maintenance of MINUSTAH for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015. Should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of the Mission beyond 15 October 2014, the cost of maintaining the Mission would be limited to the amounts approved by the Assembly. As at 5 August, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for MINUSTAH amounted to $141.5 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at that date amounted to $4,093 million. As at 5 August, amounts owed to troop and formed police contributors to MINUSTAH totalled $15.2 million. Reimbursement of troop and contingent-owned equipment costs have been made for the period up to 30 April, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

VIII. Observations

61. On 14 and 15 July, I undertook my fifth visit to Haiti as Secretary-General. I met a wide array of Haitians, including the President, the Prime Minister, parliamentarians, judges, police officers and representatives of civil society, and travelled to the countryside. The visit left me with a strong sense that significant progress has been made in Haiti over the past 10 years, including with United Nations support, and in overcoming one of history's most devastating earthquakes. The security situation has improved, key institutions continue to be strengthened, more displaced people have been able to leave the camps established for earthquake victims and progress has been made in quelling the cholera epidemic. Nevertheless, serious challenges remain that render the progress made fragile and liable to setbacks.

62. I am especially concerned that the path to a peaceful political transition could suffer a regression. The holding of inclusive elections in 2014 is essential for the continuity of the parliament in 2015, for the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law and to promote socioeconomic development, which is necessary to improve the living conditions of the population and achieve enduring stability. In my previous report, I encouraged all Haitian political stakeholders to nurture a political dialogue that would lead to the holding of long-overdue elections in 2014, a message that I also reiterated in meetings with Haitian officials and political stakeholders during my visit.

63. The inter-Haitian dialogue process and the agreements reached on the composition of the Electoral Council are positive developments and demonstrate a willingness to tackle persistent differences among political stakeholders. Disappointingly, with only four months remaining until the end of 2014, the final steps necessary to hold elections in 2014 are yet to be taken, with the amendments to the electoral law still to be adopted by the Senate. It is incumbent upon all Haitian stakeholders, at all levels, to take the measures necessary to advance towards the organization of elections. I call, once more, upon Haitian leaders across the political spectrum to rise above their differences to ensure the holding of transparent and inclusive elections in 2014, in the higher interest of their country.

64. MINUSTAH, with UNDP, provides technical assistance to the Electoral Council and stands ready, as before, to support security and logistical operations for the polls. This notwithstanding, given the Mission's consolidation, Haitian institutions should assume full ownership for the organization and conduct of the elections. I welcome the Government's contribution to the electoral budget and its discussions with MINUSTAH on the transfer of responsibility for electoral logistics to the Haitian authorities in the next polls in departments selected on the basis of the size of the voter population and local security situation, as feasible.

65. I am encouraged by the fact that violence has, overall, diminished. Today's security situation is characterized by threats to law and order, linked primarily to crime, gang violence and mobilized or spontaneous civil unrest, triggered by political or economic grievances. There has also been a notable increase in the capacity and professionalism of the national police, thanks to the Government's commitment to developing and strengthening this institution. I am hopeful that the goal of a 15,000-strong police force can be achieved by 2016, as foreseen in the national police development plan. Nevertheless, the sustained financial support and

commitment of the Government and Member States remain required to ensure the realization of a sustainable, fully professional, reliable and accountable police force and prison reform.

66. I urge the Government to continue to strengthen, with international support, the country's rule of law institutions, another key stabilization benchmark for Haiti. Developments such as the functioning of the Ombudsman's Office, the promulgation of anti-corruption legislation and advances in judicial investigations into serious past crimes are commendable. Nevertheless, justice, human rights and corrections institutions remain fragile and susceptible to setbacks. While it is positive that key oversight mechanisms have been established, they remain weak and continue to require budgetary, technical and logistical support.

67. During my visit to Haiti, the Prime Minister and I launched a total sanitation campaign, which will be key in stemming the spread of cholera. The United Nations is working with the Government through a new joint high-level committee to support the implementation of the National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera. Today, Haiti is on a trajectory for success in efforts to combat the disease, with the number of cases at its lowest since the outbreak. The elimination of this epidemic has been achieved in other difficult environments around the world. I call upon donors to provide the funding needed to make this a reality in Haiti too.

68. Haiti is at an important juncture in the consolidation of stability and democracy. The engagement of its political leaders and stakeholders is vital to securing the gains made in recent years, to setting Haiti firmly on a path towards lasting stability and economic development and to ensuring that Haitians assume greater responsibility in steering their country in this direction. The United Nations stands ready to continue being a partner of Haiti in this process, in a support role.

69. The downsizing of MINUSTAH is now in its third year. Significant gains have been made and the Mission's consolidation should reflect the reality on the ground. At the same time, an adequate presence to support Haitian institutions in addressing security risks continues to be needed, in particular in the context of the next electoral cycle and the continuing development of the national police. The heightened volatility posed by elections, the importance of ensuring a peaceful political transition and the still-weak capacity of the national police to ensure country-wide stability create a demonstrable need to retain a rapid reaction force, in addition to a police component, until the presidential elections in 2015 and the installation of a new government.

70. I recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of the Mission for an additional year, until 15 October 2015. The mandate should reflect the improved — if still fragile — stability of the country and a conditions-based deepening of the consolidation process, whereby the Mission's engagement will progressively diminish and its responsibilities will be transferred to the national authorities, with the support of international and bilateral partners.

71. Specifically, I recommend a two-step drawdown of MINUSTAH based on a review of overall stability, the security situation and the capacity of the national police. As a first step, I propose a military drawdown to 2,370 troops by June 2015. This residual element would include the force headquarters with its support elements, two mechanized battalions, an engineering company, a level II hospital and a revised air fleet to ensure adequate airlift capacity. As a second step, the force

could then be further decreased, possibly to a battalion with enablers, following the presidential elections in 2015 and the installation of a new government, depending on the situation at the time. I intend to keep the Security Council informed through my subsequent reports on MINUSTAH.

72. With this reduced capacity, the military component would assist Haitian institutions only when a situation exceeds the capacity of the national police to restore order, with support from the MINUSTAH police component. The military component would also have less capacity to meet security and deterrence requirements or provide logistical support during elections and natural disasters. Concomitantly, MINUSTAH support to the national police would increasingly focus on qualitative improvements, with measurable monitoring and evaluation tools adopted to ensure that capacity-building efforts are sustainable.

73. I emphasize that, as MINUSTAH engages with all partners on transition planning, increased engagement by the Government, the wider United Nations system and others in tasks currently performed by the Mission is contingent upon the availability of sufficient and sustained resources.

74. In conclusion, I should like to express my sincere gratitude to my Special Representative, Sandra Honoré, for her service in support of Haiti at a time when the Mission is being reconfigured. I should also like to thank the women and men of MINUSTAH, troop- and police-contributing countries and the United Nations country team and their partners for their continued dedication and commitment to stability and development in Haiti.

Annex I

Progress in the consolidation of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

1. In my report to the Security Council of 8 March 2013 (S/2013/139), I outlined the conditions-based consolidation plan of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, which identifies four stabilization benchmarks that constitute the framework for the Mission's consolidation. I provide herein an update on progress made during the reporting period.

Police development

2. As at May 2014, the strength of the national police stood at 10,963 serving officers (including 899 women or 8.2 per cent), supported by some 1,800 administrative personnel. Of the total police force, 6,304 officers (57.5 per cent) were assigned to general police duties nationwide and 4,659 (42.5 per cent) to specialized units.

3. Approximately one third of national police officers were deployed outside the greater metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince. The twenty-fourth promotion, which saw the graduation of 1,058 officers in December 2013, led to the deployment of 525 officers regionally (including 350 to the West Department) and 533 to specialized units.

4. Upon the graduation of the cadets in the twenty-fifth promotion, who began the seven-month training in May, the national police will have some 12,000 officers.

5. Beyond basic police training, the national police school offered in-service training for 518 national police officers and inspectors across all departments, specialized training for 111 emergency response officers and 396 public order officers and training-of-trainers sessions on intelligence, public order, emergency response and community policing.

6. The advanced training for senior officers, resulting in the graduation on 23 July of the second promotion of 36 commissioners (including 2 women), comprised courses on logistics and asset management. During the reporting period, 116 new vehicles and motorcycles were received.

7. For the fiscal year 2014/15, the proposed national police budget is $203.41 million, an increase of 32 per cent compared with 2013/14. The draft budget was submitted to the parliament on 30 June.

Electoral capacity-building

8. Constitutional deadlines were not respected, in view of the continued delays in the holding of local and legislative elections.

9. Although a permanent electoral council was not established, a provisional electoral council was formed on 6 May 2014, publishing the electoral calendar on 9 June. Before the installation of all of its members on 21 July, the body launched some electoral operations, subject to review by the newly installed council.

10. The Government-United Nations security, logistics and nationalization commission met 10 times to discuss an integrated security plan, training on electoral

matters for judges, prosecutors and electoral security agents and the progressive handover of electoral responsibilities to national institutions.

11. The Government fulfilled its pledge to fund one third of the provisional electoral budget and has to date disbursed some $13.5 million to the Multi-Donor Elections Trust Fund managed by the United Nations Development Programme.

12. On 27 March, the Mission completed a series of 65 countrywide focus groups on the 2013 electoral law to reinforce national ownership of the electoral process.

Rule of law and human rights

13. In June 2014, the Superior Council of the Judiciary adopted its internal rules of procedure.

14. The capacity of the Superior Court of Auditors and Administrative Disputes to handle an increased caseload remained insufficient, notwithstanding the swearing in of the Court's 10 members by the President of Haiti in April, after seven months of delay.

15. The Inspectorate General of the national police published its investigation report on various misconduct and human rights violations by police officers. A total of 24 officers were dismissed.

16. The joint vetting process for the national police is progressing, with 6,197 police officers and civilian staff having been certified. Vetting continued for the remaining national police personnel, with 2,886 cases under review and 4,065 yet to be reviewed.

17. The Mission encouraged the unified drafting of the revised criminal code and a single legal text is expected to be submitted to the parliament before the end of 2014.

18. Following the promulgation of anti-corruption legislation in May, the national Anti-Corruption Unit strengthened its ability to investigate cases.

Key governance issues

19. My Special Representative conducted her good offices role to promote dialogue among key national stakeholders focused on the holding of the elections and the continued functioning of democratic institutions.

20. From 25 April to 21 June, in its efforts to promote dialogue and civic participation, the Mission held 114 pre-electoral forums at the municipal or district level throughout the country. Some 6,915 people, including 1,661 women, attended.

21. Participants in the inter-Haitian dialogue process reached consensus on the need for constitutional amendments, but no reform process was launched.

Annex II

United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti: countries providing military staff and contingents (as at 10 August 2014)

	Staff officers		*Troops*		
Country	*Women*	*Men*	*Women*	*Men*	*Total*
Argentina		10	39	517	566
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)		3	15	191	209
Brazil		18	16	1 327[a]	1 361[b]
Canada	2	3		2	7
Chile		5	12	394	411
El Salvador		1		34	35
Ecuador		1	1	55	57
Guatemala		5	11	122	138
Honduras				38[c]	38
Indonesia		2			2
Jordan		9			9
Nepal		10			10
Paraguay		3	4	109	116
Peru		6	18	349	373
Philippines	1	1	11	145	158
Republic of Korea	1	1			2
Sri Lanka		11		850	861
United States of America		9			9
Uruguay		9	31	571	611
Total	**4**	**107**	**158**	**4 704**	**4 973**

[a] Including one Bolivian attached to the Brazilian contingent.
[b] The Force Commander is employed on a United Nations contract and hence is not reflected in the troop strength.
[c] Attached to the Chilean battalion.

Annex III

United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti: composition and strength of the police (as at 31 July 2014)

	Number of United Nations police		*Number of formed police units*	
Country	*Women*	*Men*	*Women*	*Men*
Argentina	1	18	–	–
Bangladesh	–	3	84	196
Benin	1	44	–	–
Brazil	–	15	–	–
Burkina Faso	12	39	–	–
Burundi	8	33	–	–
Cameroon	2	21	–	–
Canada	15	69	–	–
Chad	–	5	–	–
Chile	–	3	–	–
Colombia	1	25	–	–
Côte d'Ivoire	10	122	–	–
Croatia	–	3	–	–
Egypt	–	2	–	–
France	3	20	–	–
Grenada	–	2	–	–
Guinea	–	16	–	–
India	–	9	1	433
Jamaica	–	2	–	–
Jordan	–	19	–	316
Kyrgyzstan	–	1	–	–
Lithuania	–	1	–	–
Madagascar	1	1	–	–
Mali	2	43	–	–
Nepal	–	2	9	130
Niger	8	38	–	–
Nigeria	3	2	–	–
Norway	4	1	–	–
Pakistan	–	–	1	139
Paraguay	–	1	–	–
Philippines	3	13	–	–
Portugal	–	1	–	–
Romania	5	18	–	–
Russian Federation	1	9	–	–
Rwanda	–	5	17	123

	Number of United Nations police		*Number of formed police units*	
Country	*Women*	*Men*	*Women*	*Men*
Senegal	–	6	11	129
Serbia	–	4	–	–
Spain	–	8	–	–
Sri Lanka	4	9	–	–
Thailand	3	4	–	–
Tunisia	1	11	–	–
Turkey	–	10	–	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	–	1	–	–
United States of America	7	63	–	–
Uruguay	–	3	–	–
Vanuatu	–	2	–	–
Yemen	–	34	–	–
	95	751	123	1 466
Subtotal	**846**		**1 589**	
Total	**2 435**			

Map No. 4234 Rev. 41 UNITED NATIONS
August 2014 (Colour)

Department of Field Support
Cartographic Section

United Nations S/2014/618

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 August 2014

Original: English

Letter dated 21 August 2014 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to my mission of good offices in Cyprus.

You will recall that my Special Adviser on Cyprus, Alexander Downer, stepped down as of 17 April 2014

In this connection, and following the usual consultations, I wish to inform you that it is my intention to designate Espen Barth Eide (Norway) as my Special Adviser on Cyprus, at the Under-Secretary-General level.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

14-59681 (E) 220814

Please recycle

United Nations S/2014/619

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 August 2014

Original: English

Letter dated 22 August 2014 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 21 August 2014 (S/2014/618), concerning your intention to designate Espen Barth Eide (Norway) as your Special Adviser on Cyprus at the Under-Secretary-General level, has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council. They take note of the intention expressed in your letter.

(*Signed*) Mark **Lyall Grant**
President of the Security Council

14-59682 (E) 220814

Please recycle

United Nations S/2014/620

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 August 2014

Original: English

Letter dated 21 August 2014 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, presenting its position on the recommendations contained in the fifteenth report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team established pursuant to resolution 1526 (2004) (see S/2014/41), which was submitted to the Committee in accordance with paragraph (a) of annex I to resolution 2083 (2012).

I should be grateful if the attached report could be brought to the attention of the Council members and issued as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gary **Quinlan**
Chair
Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities

14-59774 (E) 260814

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Recommendations contained in the fifteenth report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team: position of the Committee

I. Introduction

1. On 26 December 2013, the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team submitted its fifteenth report to the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities (S/2014/41). The Committee would like to express its gratitude to the Monitoring Team for the exemplary work undertaken in the fulfilment of its mandate.

2. Since December 2005, the Committee has established the practice of responding to each of the reports submitted to it by the Monitoring Team and bringing to the attention of the Security Council the Committee's position on the recommendations contained in these reports. The paragraphs mentioned in this document are the same as the paragraphs of the fifteenth report submitted by the Monitoring Team.

II. Travel ban

Value of biometric information on listed individuals

3. In paragraph 42, the Team observed that a number of individuals included on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List had been the subject of judicial and extradition procedures, according to information provided in their list entries, and that, consequently, it was likely that relevant Member States held biometric data (such as photographs or fingerprints) for those individuals. Given that increasing the use of biometric data of listed individuals would strengthen implementation of the travel ban, the Team recommended that the Committee request Member States to submit any biometric data of listed individuals for inclusion in the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)-United Nations Security Council Special Notices in accordance with their national legislation.

4. The Committee has taken up this recommendation. Its Chair has written to those Member States identified by the Team as potentially holding such biometric data on listed individuals and requested that they submit such data, in accordance with their national legislation, for inclusion in the confidential version of the INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notices. Noting that other committees have similar agreements with INTERPOL relating to the Special Notices, the Chair has also written to the Chairs of those committees on that recommendation. Where applicable, these Chairs have taken the same action.

III. Arms embargo

Improvised explosive devices

5. In paragraph 47, the Team recommended that the Committee encourage Member States to apply the term "arms and related materiel of all types" under the Al-Qaida arms embargo to all types of explosives, whether military, civilian or

improvised explosives and to raw materials and components that can be used to manufacture improvised explosive devices or unconventional weapons, including but not limited to chemical components, detonating cord, fertilizers and poisons.

6. That recommendation has since become moot with the adoption, on 17 June 2014, of resolution 2161 (2014), in which the Security Council decided that Member States, in order to prevent Al-Qaida and other individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with it from obtaining, handling, storing, using or seeking access to all types of explosives, whether military, civilian or improvised explosives, as well as to raw materials and components that can be used to manufacture improvised explosive devices or unconventional weapons, including but not limited to chemical components, detonating cord or poisons, should undertake appropriate measures to promote the exercise of vigilance by their nationals, persons subject to their jurisdiction and firms incorporated in their territory or subject to their jurisdiction that are involved in the production, sale, supply, purchase, transfer and storage of such materials, including through the issuance of good practices, and encouraged Member States to share information, establish partnerships and develop national strategies and capabilities to counter improvised explosive devices.

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Identical letters dated 25 August 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to attach hereto a letter dated 25 August 2014 addressed to you from Riad Malki, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Palestine (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

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Annex to the identical letters dated 25 August 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

On behalf of the State of Palestine, I am writing to you to remind our fellow States members of the United Nations of their obligations to investigate and prosecute international humanitarian law violations over which they have jurisdiction, including war crimes committed by their nationals serving in the Israeli occupation forces.

The Israeli military currently has thousands of foreign nationals in its ranks. This total includes both Israeli dual nationals and non-Israeli volunteers enlisted through so-called Mahal programmes. These dual nationals and foreign nationals participate in Israeli combat operations within the territory of the occupied State of Palestine, including the current offensive in the Gaza Strip. Additionally, foreign nationals volunteering with the so-called Sar-El programme provide non-combat maintenance and logistics support to the Israeli occupation forces.

Israeli occupation forces have committed war crimes during the repeated assaults on Gaza in the present, as in the past. They have engaged in indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks. Such actions have caused death and injury to thousands of Palestinian civilians, including children, and massive destruction to civilian properties, in grave breach of international humanitarian and human rights law.

In declared acts of reprisal, Israeli occupation forces have also deliberately targeted vital civilian infrastructure in Gaza, including the only power plant and sewage network, deliberately causing widespread suffering among the civilian population. Throughout the offensive, Israeli occupation forces have also carried out attacks against clearly marked facilities sheltering displaced civilians, including six United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) schools in Gaza, despite prior knowledge of the location and coordinates of the schools and with the full knowledge that they housed thousands of displaced civilians.

International humanitarian law obligates every State to investigate alleged violations over which it has jurisdiction, including war crimes committed by its nationals. Under the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols, States are obligated to take all measures necessary to suppress violations of international humanitarian law, including grave breaches, namely, war crimes. Further, States have a duty to investigate violations of international humanitarian law falling within their jurisdiction and to prosecute if appropriate. This responsibility is clearly stipulated in article 49 of the First Geneva Convention, article 50 of the Second Geneva Convention, article 129 of the Third Geneva Convention and article 146 of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Additionally, article 85 (1) of Additional Protocol I of 8 June 1977 incorporates by reference the provisions set forth in the aforementioned articles.

Furthermore, these obligations are specified in several other international treaties, including the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict

and the Second Protocol thereto, the Genocide Convention and the Convention against Torture. Additionally, the General Assembly called upon Member States to take forthwith all the necessary measures to cause the arrest of those war criminals who have been responsible for or have taken a consenting part in war crimes.

Palestine hereby calls upon all States members of the United Nations to meet these legal obligations with regard to the potential involvement of its nationals in international crimes relating to Israel's occupation of Palestine, including the ongoing Israeli offensive in the Gaza Strip, by:

- Identifying all of its nationals who are serving in or otherwise aiding Israeli occupation forces, including participants in the so-called Mahal volunteer brigade and the so-called Sar-El volunteer programme
- Notifying all such persons of alleged violations and war crimes committed by Israel during the current offensive in the Gaza Strip, the potential criminal liability for committing or contributing to the commission of war crimes, and each State's obligation under international humanitarian law to investigate potential war crimes within its jurisdiction and prosecute where appropriate; and investigating any allegations that its national were involved in the commission and/or the aiding and abetting of war crimes during the Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, and prosecuting these individuals where appropriate.

(*Signed*) Riad **Malki**
Minister for Foreign Affairs

United Nations S/2014/622

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Letter dated 25 August 2014 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the eleventh monthly report of the Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), submitted pursuant to paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) (see annex). The present letter provides information requested in that resolution on the activities of the United Nations from 25 July to 22 August 2014 related to the implementation of the resolution.

I am pleased to note that, during the period under review, the destruction of declared priority chemical weapons materials of the Syrian Arab Republic on board the United States maritime vessel *Cape Ray* was completed. I am also pleased to note that good progress was made in the destruction of the remaining declared chemical weapons materials at the designated facilities outside of the Syrian Arab Republic.

I encourage the Syrian Arab Republic to proceed expeditiously with the destruction of the remaining 12 production facilities, following the decision by the OPCW Executive Council on 24 July 2014 in this regard. I welcome the continued engagement between the Syrian Arab Republic and the OPCW Technical Secretariat in order to resolve any outstanding issues with regard to the initial declaration submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic.

During the reporting period, the Joint Mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the United Nations for the Elimination of the Chemical Weapons Programme of the Syrian Arab Republic has continued to reconfigure its capacities. This has taken place in the light of the significant adjustment to the scope and scale of the operational OPCW verification tasks required within the Syrian Arab Republic since the last of the chemical weapons materials were removed at the end of June 2014. With the completion of the destruction of all declared priority chemical weapons materials, and following consultations with the Director-General of OPCW, we will bring the Joint Mission to a close on 30 September 2014. As I noted in my letter dated 23 May 2014 transmitting the eighth monthly report of the Director-General of OPCW (S/2014/368), successor arrangements will be in place at that time to ensure a seamless transition.

For this purpose and in view of the remaining verification and any inspection activities, OPCW is engaging with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) to provide the necessary administrative, logistical and procurement

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support, as well as to ensure, along with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security, that necessary security arrangements are in place by 30 September 2014, recognizing that ultimate responsibility for security rests with the Syrian Arab Republic. Furthermore, following the decision on 24 July 2014 by the OPCW Executive Council regarding the destruction of the remaining 12 chemical weapons production facilities, the OPCW Technical Secretariat met with Syrian authorities in Beirut on 6 and 7 August 2014 and again on 15 August 2014 with the participation of UNOPS and the Joint Mission with a view to advancing necessary preparations for the destruction of the production facilities.

Until the chemical weapons programme of the Syrian Arab Republic has been eliminated in its entirety, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), I will continue to exercise my good offices in furtherance of the implementation of that resolution. In this connection, the United Nations will continue to provide support as may be required to overall coordination and liaison with the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and opposition groups and to engage with other relevant international and regional stakeholders, as well as with the Security Council and its members.

I and, through me, the Director-General of OPCW will continue to fulfil our reporting obligations to the Security Council in accordance with paragraph 12 of resolution 2118 (2013).

I would like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to the Special Coordinator, Sigrid Kaag, and all the staff of the Joint Mission for their continuous efforts to ensure full implementation of mandated tasks.

I should be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its annex urgently to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

Annex

I have the honour to transmit to you my report entitled "Progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme" prepared in accordance with the relevant provisions of decision EC-M-33/DEC.1 of the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), both dated 27 September 2013, for transmission to the Security Council (see enclosure). My report covers the period from 25 July 2014 to 22 August 2014 and also covers the reporting requirements of Executive Council decision EC-M-34/DEC.1, dated 15 November 2013.

(*Signed*) Ahmet **Üzümcü**

Enclosure

Note by the Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme

Programme

1. In accordance with subparagraph 2 (f) of the decision by the Executive Council (hereinafter "the Council") at its Thirty-Third Meeting (EC-M-33/DEC.1, dated 27 September 2013), the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter "the Secretariat") reports to the Council on a monthly basis regarding the implementation of that decision. In accordance with paragraph 12 of United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), the report by the Secretariat is also submitted to the Security Council through the Secretary-General. This is the eleventh such monthly report.

2. The Council, at its Thirty-Fourth Meeting, adopted a decision entitled "Detailed Requirements for the Destruction of Syrian Chemical Weapons and Syrian Chemical Weapons Production Facilities" (EC-M-34/DEC.1, dated 15 November 2013). In paragraph 22 of that decision, the Council decided that the Secretariat should report on its implementation "in conjunction with its reporting required by subparagraph 2 (f) of Council decision EC-M-33/DEC.1".

3. This report is therefore submitted in accordance with both above-mentioned Council decisions and includes information relevant to their implementation during the period from 25 July to 22 August 2014.

Progress achieved by the Syrian Arab Republic in meeting the requirements of EC-M-33/DEC.1 and EC-M-34/DEC.1

4. In accordance with subparagraph 1 (c) of EC-M-33/DEC.1, the Syrian Arab Republic was required to complete the elimination of all chemical weapons material and equipment in the first half of 2014. As reported previously, all declared chemicals have been removed from the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, while all declared stocks of the Category 1 chemical isopropanol have been destroyed within the Syrian Arab Republic. Progress achieved within the current reporting period by the Syrian Arab Republic in fulfilling other obligations is described below:

(a) In accordance with the Council's decision on the combined plans for the destruction and verification of 12 declared chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs) in the Syrian Arab Republic (EC-M-43/DEC.1, dated 24 July 2014), a planning meeting to discuss modalities for the destruction operations was held in Beirut from 6 to 8 August 2014 between the Secretariat, representatives of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, the OPCW-UN Joint Mission (hereinafter "the Joint Mission") and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), which is expected to deliver the procurement of the required services, equipment, explosives, and chemicals within the time frame envisaged. A further planning meeting was held in Beirut on 15 August 2014 which, in addition to the above representatives, also included representatives of a company identified by the OPCW to provide specialist technical advice to the Syrian Arab Republic and two

companies identified by the Syrian Arab Republic that will undertake destruction activities. A final planning meeting will be held in early September 2014, with a view to laying down the agreed responsibilities, tasks, modalities, and time frames for the destruction operations;

(b) Following the submission by the Syrian Arab Republic of a destruction plan for the two items declared by its Government as abandoned chemical weapons as reported in the previous monthly report (EC-M-44/DG.1, dated 25 July 2014), the Secretariat has issued a draft decision on the agreed detailed plan for the verification of their destruction (EC-M-44/DEC/CRP.1, dated 25 August 2014), together with the report (EC-M-44/P/S/1, dated 25 August 2014);

(c) Pursuant to paragraph 19 of EC-M-34/DEC.1, the Syrian Arab Republic is required to submit a monthly report to the Council regarding activities on its territory related to the destruction of its chemical weapons and CWPFs. The ninth such report was submitted to the Secretariat on 18 August 2014 and made available to the Council (EC-M-44/P/NAT.1, dated 18 August 2014);

(d) In accordance with subparagraph 1 (e) of EC-M-33/DEC.1 and paragraph 7 of United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), the Syrian Arab Republic shall cooperate fully with all aspects of the implementation of the decision and the resolution. The Syrian authorities have continued to extend the necessary cooperation to the Joint Mission in the conduct of its activities during the reporting period.

Progress in the elimination of Syrian chemical weapons by States Parties hosting destruction activities

5. Following the complete removal of identified chemicals from the Syrian Arab Republic on 23 June 2014, destruction activities are well under way. The following subparagraphs provide information on the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons on board the United States vessel MV *Cape Ray*, at commercial facilities selected pursuant to paragraph 24 of EC-M-34/DEC.1, and at facilities sponsored by States Parties pursuant to paragraph 7 of decision EC-M-36/DEC.2 (dated 17 December 2013):

(a) Destruction operations on board the MV *Cape Ray* were completed on 18 August 2014. An OPCW inspection team was on board the MV *Cape Ray* to verify the destruction and to ensure that it took place in accordance with paragraph 8 and subparagraph 12 (f) of EC-M-34/DEC.1. All liquid waste produced by the hydrolysis of the declared chemicals DF and HD was pumped directly into ISO tanks on the ship. The MV *Cape Ray* is currently on its way to deliver the DF effluent to Ekokem's facility in Riihimäki, Finland, and the HD effluent to the GEKA facility in Münster, Germany, for disposal;

(b) As at the cut-off date of this report, 85% of the received chemicals had been destroyed by Ekokem in Finland, with one of the Category 1 chemicals received with the first delivery on 21 June 2014 having been completely destroyed;

(c) As reported in the previous monthly report (EC-M-44/DG.1), Veolia ES Technical Solutions, LLC in the United States of America, the other commercial facility selected through the tender process organized by the OPCW, received the declared chemicals transported by the Norwegian cargo ship *Taiko* on 9 July 2014.

As at the cut-off date of this report, 42% of the received chemicals had been destroyed by Veolia ES Technical Solutions, LLC;

(d) Veolia Environmental Services (UK) in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland received declared chemicals transported from the Syrian Arab Republic by the *Ark Futura* on 15 and 16 July 2014. The Secretariat verified the completion of destruction activities at Veolia Environmental Services (UK) as announced by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on 7 August 2014. Destruction activities at Mexichem UK Limited are planned for late 2014.

6. Taken together, the destruction activities described in subparagraphs 5 (a) to 5 (d) above mean that, as at the cut-off date of this report, 100% of the Category 1 chemicals and 65% of the Category 2 chemicals had been destroyed, representing a combined total of 93%, including the isopropanol previously destroyed in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Secretariat will continue to provide such information during briefings to States Parties in The Hague and through the monthly reports. Timelines for the completion of the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons were provided in the overall report on the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme (paragraph 25 of EC-76/DG.16, dated 4 July 2014), which was noted by the Council at its Seventy-Sixth Session.

Activities carried out by the Secretariat with respect to the Syrian Arab Republic

7. Effective cooperation with the United Nations in the context of the Joint Mission has continued with close coordination between the two organizations and between the offices in The Hague, New York, Damascus and Cyprus. The Director-General and the Special Coordinator of the Joint Mission, Ms. Sigrid Kaag, have maintained regular contact. As at the cut-off date of this report, two OPCW staff members were deployed as part of the Joint Mission in Damascus, and one logistics officer in Beirut.

8. The Director-General has continued to meet with senior representatives of the States Parties hosting a destruction facility or otherwise providing assistance with transport or destruction of Syrian chemical weapons, and to communicate regularly with senior officials from the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic. As requested by the Council at its Seventy-Fifth Session (paragraph 7.12 of EC-75/2, dated 7 March 2014), the Secretariat has continued to provide regular information briefings to States Parties in The Hague on behalf of the Director-General.

9. Efforts are being continued to streamline and complete the data regarding the initial declaration submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic in October 2013 (and subsequent amendments). The Council at its Seventy-Sixth Session "urged the Secretariat and the Syrian authorities to continue to cooperate through technical discussions on outstanding issues regarding Syria's declaration, with a view to the soonest resolution of questions raised by the Secretariat to further the declaration's accuracy and completeness" (paragraph 6.17 of EC 76/6, dated 11 July 2014). Consultations on this issue will continue.

10. A team of four OPCW inspectors was permanently on board the MV *Cape Ray* as it neutralized HD and DF. Two of these inspectors have returned to the OPCW Headquarters, while the remaining two inspectors will witness the delivery of the effluents in Finland and Germany. OPCW inspectors have carried out inspections at

the commercial facilities to verify destruction activities, and have witnessed the destruction of the final amount of chemicals to be destroyed at Veolia Environmental Services (UK) in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The OPCW is receiving weekly updates on the progress of the destruction of Syrian chemicals weapons and, as instructed by the Council in paragraph 4 of decision EC-M-38/DEC.1 (dated 30 January 2014), reports on such progress through these monthly reports. In the interests of transparency, the OPCW is also reporting on the progress in destruction through its public website.

11. On 31 July 2014, the United Nations Secretary-General's office sent a letter to the Director-General, recommending arrangements for the provision of logistical, administrative, and security support to the OPCW through a partnership with UNOPS, in the event that the Security Council agrees that the Joint Mission is to transition on 30 September 2014. Consecutive consultations were initiated with UNOPS and a meeting was held at OPCW Headquarters on 12 August 2014.

12. The Secretariat has also sent letters to the States Parties that have provided voluntary contributions towards the Syria Trust Fund for the Destruction of Chemical Weapons, seeking their agreement to the Secretariat's use of the funds provided in the trust fund beyond the timelines specified by the Council pursuant to EC-M-34/DEC.1, for the purpose of supporting the activities of the Secretariat undertaken in relation to the destruction of the declared CWPFs in the Syrian Arab Republic in accordance with the framework and programmes set out in EC-M-43/DEC.1 and any other relevant decisions by the policymaking organs.

13. With regard to the implementation of additional special monitoring measures as specified in the Note EC-M-43/DG.1/Rev.1 (dated 21 July 2014), initial discussions have been held with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in order to benefit from its experience. A team from the Secretariat will travel to the IAEA Headquarters in late August to determine the suitability of the IAEA monitoring equipment.

Supplementary resources

14. As at the cut-off date of this report, the total contribution received in the Syria Trust Fund for the Destruction of Chemical Weapons stood at EUR 49.7 million. Contributions have been received from Argentina, Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, the Czech Republic, the European Union, Finland, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. This includes the contributions that were originally made to the first OPCW Trust Fund for Syria and which have, at the request of the donor, subsequently been transferred, in part or in whole, to the Syria Trust Fund for the Destruction of Chemical Weapons.

Conclusion

15. The completion of the destruction operations on board the MV *Cape Ray* ends a crucial stage in the complex international maritime operation to remove and destroy the chemical weapons stockpile of the Syrian Arab Republic. This, together with the completion of destruction activities at Veolia Environmental Services (UK), represents the achievement of key milestones in the elimination of the chemical

weapons declared by the Syrian Arab Republic. All Category 1 chemicals have now been destroyed.

16. With regard to the destruction of the 12 remaining CWPFs, the planning of the destruction operations is expected to be finalized in early September, depending on progress made to conclude the necessary contracts and arrangements. While the destruction of these facilities remains the responsibility of the Syrian Arab Republic, decision EC-M/43/DEC.1 authorizes the Director-General "to enter, after consultations with the Syrian Arab Republic, into such contracts and arrangements as he considers necessary, to assist the Syrian Arab Republic in the destruction of these facilities utilizing funds from the OPCW Syria Trust Fund for the Destruction of Chemical Weapons, following close consultations with the donors, whose contributions are to be used ...". As mentioned earlier in this report, the necessary consultations with all the relevant stakeholders have been held intensively in order to finalize the arrangements and contracts envisaged in the Council's decision. The destruction of these facilities will be a complex undertaking. It coincides with the possible transition of the Joint Mission and thus requires thorough preparations for post-transition successor arrangements. The work itself will involve frequent and extended exposure of contracted personnel to the sites in question, which will require uninterrupted liaison and coordination between all concerned, especially in the context of security. Another important factor in the timely commencement and conclusion of the destruction programme relates to the availability of the necessary funding for defraying all reasonable costs associated with the destruction effort. The Secretariat will continue to regularly report to the Council on the progress being made, together with recommendations for any adjustments in the destruction schedule, if necessary.

17. The Fact-Finding Mission is continuing its work to establish the facts surrounding the allegations of the use of toxic chemicals, reportedly chlorine, for hostile purposes in the Syrian Arab Republic.

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Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the alternate representative of Lithuania on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 30 July 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the United Nations stating that Ms. Agnė Pipiraitė has been appointed alternate representative of Lithuania on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, this letter constitutes adequate provisional credentials.

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